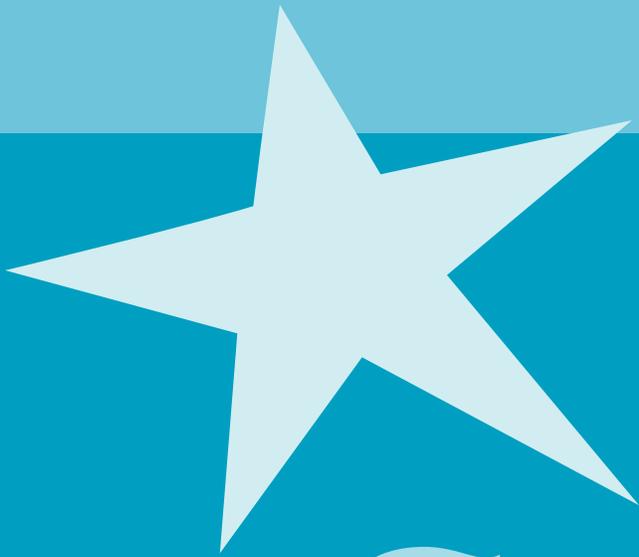


Child Welfare Outcomes 2003:
Annual Report



Safety
Permanency
Well-being



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
ADMINISTRATION ON CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES
CHILDREN'S BUREAU

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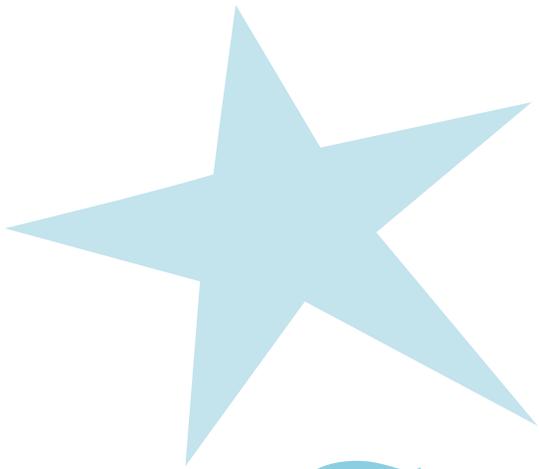
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Executive Summary

CHILD WELFARE OUTCOMES 2003: ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS

Child Welfare Outcomes 2003: Annual Report to Congress (Report to Congress) is the sixth in a series of annual reports from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (the Department).¹ The reports are developed in accordance with section 479A of the Social Security Act (as amended by the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997) and provide information pertaining to State performance on the following national child welfare outcomes:²

- **Outcome 1**—Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect
- **Outcome 2**—Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care
- **Outcome 3**—Increase permanency for children in foster care
- **Outcome 4**—Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry
- **Outcome 5**—Reduce time in foster care to adoption
- **Outcome 6**—Increase placement stability
- **Outcome 7**—Reduce placements of young children in group homes or institutions

The Department established these national outcomes in consultation with State and local child welfare agency administrators, child advocacy organizations, child welfare researchers, and other experts in the child welfare field. The outcomes reflect widely accepted performance objectives for child welfare practice and adherence to a set of guiding principles.

The purpose of the Report to Congress is to provide information that may lead to improved outcomes for children and families served by the Nation's child welfare system by informing Congress, the States, and the public about State performance on key child welfare outcomes and change in performance over time. To this end, the Report to Congress presents data for each State regarding the following: (1) 12 measures developed to assess the national outcomes listed above, and (2) contextual factors regarding the number and characteristics of children who are the subject of substantiated child abuse or neglect reports and of children in the State's foster care system. The report also presents key findings across States on the relationship between contextual factors and State performance on the outcome measures. Data pertaining to the measures and the contextual factors come from the Federal Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) and the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS).

The following table provides information regarding median State performance on key measures pertaining to the seven national outcomes. The States included in the calculation of the median are those that provided acceptable data for a given outcome measure in all 4 years.

¹ The unit of the Department that has primary responsibility for this report is the Children's Bureau within the Administration on Children, Youth and Families, in the Administration for Children and Families.

² In the Report to Congress, the designation of "State" includes the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Therefore the Report provides information on 52 "States."

Table 1. Median of State performance on key outcomes and measures in 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003*

Outcomes and Measures	Median Performance by Year			
	2000	2001	2002	2003
Outcome 1: Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect				
Measure 1.1—Of all children who were victims of substantiated or indicated child abuse and/or neglect during the first 6 months of the reporting period, what percentage had another substantiated or indicated report within a 6-month period? (N=34 States).	7.9%	7.5%	7.8%	7.7%
Outcome 2: Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care				
Measure 2.1—Of all children who were in foster care during the reporting period, what percentage was the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member? (N=27 States)	0.47	0.55	0.52	0.40
Outcome 3: Increase permanency for children in foster care				
Measure 3.1— Of all children who exited foster care during the reporting period, what percentage left to either reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship (i.e., were discharged to a permanent home)? (N=44 States)	85.7	85.4	86.4	86.7
Measure 3.2—Of all children who exited foster care and were identified as having a diagnosed disability, what percentage left to either reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship (i.e., were discharged to a permanent home)? (N=37 States)	79.6	78.6	79.8	78.2
Measure 3.3—Of all children who exited foster care and were older than age 12 at the time of their most recent entry into care, what percentage left to either reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship (i.e., were discharged to a permanent home)? (N=40 States)	72.8	72.9	72.0	72.2
Measure 3.4—Of all children exiting foster care to emancipation, what percentage was age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care? (N=50 States)	25.3	28.3	26.7	29.6
Outcome 4: Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry				
Measure 4.1—Of all children who were reunified with their parents or caretakers at the time of discharge from foster care, what percentage was reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care? (N=43 States).	71.5	71.9	68.3	72.1
Measure 4.2—Of all children who entered foster care during the reporting period, what percentage re-entered care within 12 months of a prior foster care episode? (N=46 States)	10.6	11.2	10.8	9.8
Outcome 5: Reduce time in foster care to adoption				
Measure 5.1—Of all children who exited foster care to a finalized adoption, what percentage exited foster care less than 24 months from the time of the latest removal from home? (N=34 States)	19.7	20.3	21.9	22.9
Outcome 6: Increase placement stability				
Measure 6.1—Of all children served who had been in foster care for less than 12 months, what percentage had no more than two placement settings during that time period? (N = 51 States)	84.2	83.3	84.3	84.0
Outcome 7: Reduce placements of young children in group homes or institutions				
Measure 7.1—Of all children who entered foster care during the reporting period and were age 12 or younger at the time of their most recent placement, what percentage was placed in a group home or institution? (N=49 States)	9.6	8.6	8.6	8.3

* In order to depict meaningful change in State performance over time, this table includes only those States that provided acceptable data for each measure in all 4 years. Therefore, the medians reported in this table for State performance in 2003 may be slightly different than those presented in the Report chapters. For example, in 2003, 45 States provided data for outcome measure 1; the median performance of these States was 7.1 percent. However, only 34 States provided data for measure 1.1 in all 4 years (2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003). The median State performance in 2003 for these 34 States is 7.7 percent.

Changes in median State performance from 2000 to 2003 were assessed by calculating the percent change in the median from 2000 to 2003.³ There was evidence of considerable **performance improvement** from 2000 to 2003, as indicated by the following findings:

³ Change in performance across years was assessed by calculating the percent change. This is calculated by subtracting “old” data from “new” data, dividing by “old” data and multiplying by 100. In this report, a percent change in performance on any measure from 2000 to 2003 that is less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) is considered to reflect “no change” in performance. Because the outcome measures are assessed using percentages, small fluctuations across years are to be expected. Rather than identifying any percent change as a performance change, it was decided that a percent change greater than 5.0 would be a practical indicator of actual performance change.

- The median percentage of children in foster care who were maltreated by a foster parent or facility staff member (outcome measure 2.1) decreased from 2000 to 2003 (-14.8 percent change).
- The median percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (outcome measure 4.2) decreased from 2000 to 2003 (-7.5 percent change).
- The median percentage of adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (outcome measure 5.1) increased from 2000 to 2003 (+16.2 percent change).
- The median percentage of children age 12 and younger who were placed in group homes or institutions (outcome measure 7.1) decreased from 2000 to 2003 (-13.5 percent change).

There was only one measure in which median performance declined from 2000 to 2003. The median percentage of children emancipated from foster care who were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (outcome measure 3.4) increased from 2000 to 2003 (+17.0 percent change). The median percentages for all other outcome measures did not change from 2000 to 2003 (i.e., the percent change did not exceed 5.0 in either direction).

How successful are States in protecting child maltreatment victims from further maltreatment?

A primary objective of State child welfare systems is to ensure that children who have been found to be victims of maltreatment are protected from further abuse or neglect whether they are in their own homes, in a foster home, or in a residential facility. For the Report to Congress, a child is considered to be a victim of maltreatment if he or she is the subject of a substantiated or indicated allegation of child abuse or neglect. In 2003, State child maltreatment victim rates ranged extensively from 1.6 child victims per 1,000 children in the State's child population in Pennsylvania to 42.2 child victims per 1,000 children in the population in Alaska. The median across States was 10.6 child victims per 1,000 children in the population.

The Department established the following safety-related national outcomes and measures to assess State performance with regard to protecting child victims from further abuse or neglect:

Outcome 1—Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

Outcome measure 1.1—Of all children who were victims of substantiated or indicated child abuse and/or neglect during the first 6 months of the reporting period, what percentage had another substantiated or indicated report within a 6-month period?⁴

Outcome 2 —Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

Outcome measure 2.1—Of all children who were in foster care during the reporting period, what percentage was the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member?

The findings of the data analyses indicate that some States appear to be more effective than others in protecting child maltreatment victims from further maltreatment. In 2003, for the 45 States reporting data to NCANDS pertaining to outcome measure 1, the percent of children in a State who experienced a recurrence of maltreatment ranged from 2.1 to 14.4, with a median of 7.1 percent. In 35 of the 45 States at least 5 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the reporting year were victims of another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period. For 29 percent of the 45 States, the incidence of maltreatment recurrence increased from 2000 to 2003. However, in 53 percent of the 45 States, the percent of children experiencing maltreatment recurrence decreased from 2000 to 2003.

⁴ The Child File of the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (which is the data source for the measure of maltreatment recurrence) cannot track children from one year to the next. Therefore, a 6-month time frame for maltreatment recurrence was established to ensure that the measure captured the actual incidence of maltreatment recurrence rather than estimating the incidence. In addition, multiple research findings indicate that the highest incidence of maltreatment recurrence tends to occur within 6 months of a prior incident. Therefore, the Department determined that the 6-month time frame was sufficient to assess State performance in this area.

Understanding differences among States with regard to the incidence of maltreatment recurrence requires a consideration of various contextual factors. For example, a substantial positive correlation (Pearson's $r = 0.63$) was found between a State's child maltreatment victim rate in 2003 and the percentage of children in the State who experienced maltreatment recurrence. In general, States with a relatively high victim rate also tended to have a relatively high percentage of maltreatment recurrence within a 6-month period. This suggests that differences in State statutes and policies regarding definitions of child maltreatment and evidentiary requirements for substantiation of a child maltreatment allegation may contribute to State variation in the incidence of maltreatment recurrence.

Differences in State practices regarding investigating maltreatment allegations also may contribute to State variation in the incidence of maltreatment recurrence. For example, in some States, the percent of maltreatment recurrence reported to NCANDS may be less than the actual percent because maltreatment allegations involving children in child protective services cases already open for services often are reported to the current caseworker and supervisor rather than being formally investigated to determine the validity of the allegation. Because there is no disposition, these children are not included in the NCANDS Child File, which is the data source for the measure of maltreatment recurrence (outcome measure 1.1). As another example, many States are adopting an alternative response approach to responding to maltreatment allegations. In these States, maltreatment allegations that are determined to involve very low risks for child safety are not formally investigated. Instead, the allegation is referred for a family assessment and no disposition is reached regarding the validity of the maltreatment allegation. Again, because there is no disposition, States do not submit the NCANDS Child File for children who are the subject of these allegations.

The data analyses also found that State variation in performance on the measure of maltreatment recurrence was moderately related to the types of maltreatment experienced by child victims. In 2003, States with a relatively high percentage of children who were victims of sexual abuse tended to have a relatively low incidence of maltreatment recurrence within a 6-month period (Pearson's $r = -0.40$). In comparison, States with a relatively high percentage of children who were victims of neglect in 2003 tended to have a relatively high incidence of maltreatment recurrence within a 6-month period (Pearson's $r = 0.40$). Although additional information is necessary for a meaningful interpretation of these findings, one possible explanation may be that child welfare agencies typically respond differently to substantiated sexual abuse and neglect allegations. A substantiated allegation of sexual abuse, for example, often involves legal action against the perpetrator and action to ensure that the perpetrator does not have contact with the child, which may include placement of the child in foster care. These efforts may be effective in preventing the recurrence of sexual abuse within a 6-month period. In contrast, a child welfare agency response to a substantiated allegation of neglect usually does not involve legal action against the perpetrator (unless it is severe neglect or medical neglect), and usually does not prohibit contact between the child and the perpetrator. Consequently, there may be a greater opportunity for recurrence of neglect within a 6-month period.

States also varied in 2003 in their effectiveness in protecting children in foster care from maltreatment by their foster parents or a facility staff member (as assessed by measure 2.1). In 2003, for the 41 States that provided data to NCANDS for this measure, the percent of children in foster care who were victims of maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member ranged from 0.02 to 1.53, with a median of 0.39 percent. There were only four States in which more than one percent of the children in foster care were reported to be victims of maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member. In addition, most States (73 percent) exhibited improvement in this area from 2000 to 2003; only 19 percent of the States exhibited a decline in performance on this measure.

How successful are States in achieving permanency for children in foster care?

The Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) of 1997 emphasized permanency as a primary goal for children in foster care and provided guidelines for achieving this goal in a timely manner. A child in foster care is determined to have achieved permanency when any of the following occurs: (1) the child is discharged from foster care to a reunification with his or her family, either a parent or other relative; (2) the child is discharged from foster care to a legally finalized adoption; or (3) the child is discharged from foster care to the care of a legal guardian. The Department established the following national outcomes and measures to assess State performance with regard to achieving permanency for children in foster care:

Outcome 3—Increase permanency for children in foster care

Outcome measure 3.1—Of all children who exited foster care during the reporting period, what percentage left either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?

Outcome measure 3.2—Of all children who exited foster care and were identified as having a diagnosed disability, what percentage left either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?

Outcome measure 3.3—Of all children who exited foster care and were older than age 12 at the time of their most recent entry into foster care, what percentage left either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?

Outcome measure 3.4—Of all children who exited foster care to emancipation, what percentage was age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care?

Outcome measure 3.5—Of all children who exited foster care, what percentage by racial/ethnic category left either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?

The data analyses findings suggest that most States were successful in achieving permanency for the majority of children exiting foster care in 2003.⁵ The percent of all children exiting foster care in 2003 who were discharged to a permanent home ranged across States (N = 51 States) from 71.9 to 96.1, with a median of 86.3 percent (measure 3.1). For 67 percent of the 51 States, there was no change from 2000 to 2003 in the percentage of all children exiting foster care who were discharged to a permanent home; performance on this measure was already quite high in 2000. Only seven percent of the States exhibited a decline in performance on this measure.

The range of State performance was greater when the assessment of permanency focused on children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2). For the 48 States included in this analysis, the percent of children with a diagnosed disability exiting foster care who were discharged to a permanent home ranged from 36.4 to 96.5 with a median of 79.5 percent. In addition, 41 percent of these States showed a decline in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003; only 24 percent of the States exhibited improved performance on this measure.

Many States also appeared to experience challenges with regard to achieving permanency for children who are older than age 12 when they enter foster care (measure 3.3). For the 48 States included in this analysis, the percent of children exiting foster care who entered foster care when they were older than age 12 and who were discharged to a permanent home ranged from 37.8 to 90.9, with a median of 72.2 percent. For 49 percent of these States, there was no change in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003. However, 31 percent of these States exhibited improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003.

States varied considerably with regard to their success in ensuring that children do not grow up in foster care (measure 3.4). For the 52 States included in this analysis, the percent of all children who emancipated (including legal emancipation and children reaching the age of majority) from foster care who entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger ranged from 5.1 to 65.1, with a median of 29.6 percent. In 10 States, more than 40 percent of the children who emancipated from foster care in 2003 were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care. In addition, for 51 percent of the States, there was a decline in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003. However, 34 percent of the States exhibited performance improvement over that time period.

In most States, the percentages of children exiting foster care who were discharged to a permanent home did not vary as a function of children's race or ethnicity. In almost all of the States, Black (non-Hispanic) children, Hispanic children, Alaskan Native/American Indian children, and White (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care were about equally likely to be discharged to a permanent home.⁶

⁵ The number of States varies for each analysis. States were excluded from an analysis if they did not report the necessary data or if there were substantive data quality issues in any given year, usually related to missing data or data discrepancies.

⁶ This applies only to those States in which a particular racial/ethnic category accounted for at least 10 percent of the children exiting foster care.

How successful are States in achieving permanency for children in a timely manner?

State child welfare agencies are responsible not only for achieving permanency for children in foster care, but also for ensuring that children are discharged to a permanent home as soon as possible after entering foster care. The Department established the following national outcomes and measures to assess State performance with regard to achieving permanency for children in foster care:

Outcome 4—Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

Outcome measure 4.1—Of all children who were reunified with their parents or caretakers at the time of discharge from foster care, what percentage was reunified in the following time periods?

- (1) less than 12 months
- (2) at least 12 months but less than 24 months
- (3) at least 24 months but less than 36 months
- (4) at least 36 months but less than 48 months
- (5) 48 or more months

Outcome measure 4.2—Of all children who entered foster care during the reporting period, what percentage re-entered care:

- (1) within 12 months of a prior foster care episode?
- (2) 12 months or more after a prior foster care episode?

Outcome 5—Reduce time in foster care to adoption

Outcome measure 5.1—Of all children who exited foster care to a finalized adoption, what percentage exited care in the following time periods?

- (1) less than 12 months from the time of the latest removal from home
- (2) at least 12 months but less than 24 months
- (3) at least 24 months but less than 36 months
- (4) at least 36 months but less than 48 months
- (5) 48 or more months

Outcome 4 reflects the Department's emphasis on timely reunification of children who are able to be returned to their families. The results of the data analysis indicate that in 2003, States varied considerably with regard to their success in achieving reunifications within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1). Of the 51 States included in this analysis, the percent of reunifications that occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care ranged from 40.6 to 92.3, with a median of 72.0 percent. In five States, less than 50 percent of the reunifications occurred within 12 months of entry into foster care; in five other States, 85 percent or more of the reunifications occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care. The assessment of change in performance on this measure included 43 States. Most of these States did not change from 2000 to 2003 with regard to their performance on this measure (49 percent), although almost one-third of the States showed improvement.

Understanding differences in State performance with regard to the timeliness of reunifications requires a consideration of State statutes, policies, and practices that may affect performance. For example, some States, either by law, policy, or practice, require the child welfare agency to maintain its placement and care responsibilities for a period of time (usually between 3 to 6 months) after a child is physically reunified with his or her family. Because this practice means that the child continues to be reported to AFCARS as being in foster care, it affects performance on the outcome measure pertaining to time in foster care prior to reunification.

Outcome 4 also addresses the Department's emphasis that reunifications must occur in a manner that promotes the "permanency" of the reunification and prevents children from re-entering foster care. The findings reported in chapter III raise concerns about the permanency of reunifications occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care. One key finding is that 50 percent of the States exhibiting an increase from 2000 to 2003 in the percentage of reunifications occurring within 12 months of entry into

foster care (measure 4.1) also exhibited an increase in the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (measure 4.2). Only four States exhibited improved performance on both measures (Arizona, Illinois, Tennessee, and Vermont). Another key finding is that in 2003, States with a relatively high percentage of reunifications occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care also tended to have a relatively high percentage of entries into foster care of children re-entering within 12 months of a prior foster care episode (Pearson's $r = 0.49$). Taken together, these findings suggest that some children are being reunified before sufficient changes have occurred in the family or the child to prevent another removal episode and/or that insufficient post-reunification services were provided to assist families in the reintegration process.

The findings reported in chapter III also indicate that the relationship between reunification and re-entry reported in the prior paragraph may be particularly relevant for children who enter foster care as older adolescents. In general, States with a relatively high percentage of children entering foster care who were age 16 or older tended to have a relatively high percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (Pearson's $r = 0.52$). Almost all of the States with a high percentage of children age 16 and older entering foster care are States in which children can enter foster care through the juvenile justice system or through the courts as "children in need of supervision." Because these children do not enter foster care as victims of maltreatment, and therefore are viewed as not having safety concerns, child welfare agencies may experience challenges in meeting their treatment needs.

Outcome 5 addresses the Department's focus on expediting adoptions for those children who cannot be returned to their families. States are generally less successful in achieving adoptions in a timely manner than they are in achieving reunifications in a timely manner. In 2003, for the 47 States included in this analysis, the percent of adoptions finalized within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care ranged from 5.0 to 75.8, with a median of 23.9 percent. The percent of adoptions that were finalized after a child had been in foster care for at least 48 months had a somewhat similar range (3.2 percent to 65.6 percent), and a similar median (21.9 percent).

The analysis of change in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 included only 34 States. Many States were excluded from the analysis because of data quality issues in the 2000 data. Although most of these States corrected these issues in the 2003 data, it was not feasible to include them in the analysis of change over time. A key finding with regard to the timeliness of adoptions is that 70 percent of these States exhibited improved performance on this measure, and for many of these States, the improvement was substantial. Only 18 percent of the 34 States exhibited a decline in performance on this measure.

How successful are States in achieving stable placements for children in foster care and appropriate placements for young children?

It is the responsibility of a State child welfare agency to ensure that children are in stable placements while they are in foster care. An additional agency responsibility is to ensure that children are in placements appropriate to their age. For many young children (i.e., age 12 years or younger), an appropriate placement is a family setting rather than a group home or institution. The Department established the following outcomes and measures to assess State performance with regard to meeting these responsibilities.

Outcome 6—Increase placement stability

Outcome measure 6.1—Of all children served during the reporting period who had been in foster care for the time periods listed below, what percentage had no more than two placement settings during that time period?

- (1) Less than 12 months from the time of latest removal from home*
- (2) At least 12 months but less than 24 months*
- (3) At least 24 months but less than 36 months*
- (4) At least 36 months but less than 48 months*
- (5) 48 or more months*

Outcome 7—Reduce placements of young children in group homes or institutions.

Outcome measure 7.1—Of all children who entered foster care during the reporting period and were age 12 or younger at the time of their most recent placement, what percentage was placed in a group home or institution?

The analysis of outcome measure 6.1 found that States were generally effective in achieving placement stability for children in foster care for less than 12 months. In 2003, the median percent of children in foster care for less than 12 months who experience two or fewer placement settings was 84.2. For 74 percent of the States, performance on this measure did not change substantively from 2000 to 2003, primarily because most States were already at a high level of performance in 2000.

The analyses also found that children in foster care for at least 12 months but less than 24 months are less likely to experience placement stability than children in foster care for less than 12 months. In 2003, the median percent of children in foster care for at least 12 months but less than 24 months who experienced two or fewer placement settings was 59.1, more than 25 percentage points less than the median performance on placement stability for children in foster care for less than 12 months.

State child welfare agencies also are responsible for ensuring that children are placed in foster care settings that are age-appropriate. For the 49 States included in this analysis, the percent of children entering foster care in 2003 at age 12 or younger who were placed in a group home or institution ranged from 1.4 to 28.8, with a median of 8.3 percent. Fifty-five percent of these States exhibited improvement on this measure from 2000 to 2003. However, there are a few States that have not been successful in ensuring that young children are not routinely placed in group homes or institutions. In six States, for example, 20 percent or more of the children age 12 and younger who entered foster care in 2003 were placed in group homes or institutions. In addition, 37 percent of the States exhibited a decline in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003.

SUMMARY

Overall, State performance with regard to keeping children safe generally improved from 2000 to 2003, particularly with regard to maltreatment of children in foster care. However, the data indicate that greater efforts are needed to ensure that child victims do not experience additional maltreatment, whether they are in their own homes, in the home of a foster family, or in a group home or institution.

State performance with regard to achieving permanency for children was more variable than it was for keeping children safe. The strongest area of improvement from 2000 to 2003 pertained to adoptions within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care. Although the percentage of adoptions finalized within this time period continues to be somewhat low (median = 23.9 percent), 70 percent of the States exhibited improved performance on this measure.

Many States (33 percent) also improved with respect to achieving reunifications within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care. However, there is some indication that expediting reunifications may be related to increased rates of re-entry, particularly for children who enter foster care as older adolescents.

States continued to experience challenges in 2003 with regard to achieving permanency for children who enter foster care as adolescents (i.e., older than age 12). In the majority of States, the percentage of these children exiting foster care who were discharged to a permanent home was substantially lower than the percentage of all children exiting foster care who were discharged to a permanent home. Finally, in many States, more than one-third of the children emancipated from foster care had entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger; the median for this measure across States was close to 30 percent.

The findings regarding State performance pertaining to placement stability raise serious concerns about children in foster care for 12 months or longer. Although most children in foster care for less than 12 months generally experience two or fewer placement settings, this is not true for children in foster care for at least 12 months but less than 24 months.

Finally, in most States, the majority of young children entering foster care are placed in family settings rather than in group homes or institutions. However, there is room for improvement in this area in several States.

The findings reported in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2003: Annual Report to Congress* suggest that, for the most part, States are exhibiting improvements in achieving positive outcomes for children who come into contact with public child welfare systems. However, there continue to be many areas in which additional improvements are needed and some in which State performance is declining. As States complete their program improvement plans resulting from the Department's first round of Child and Family Services Reviews, the Department will be able to gather more specific information to identify the direction of change and the strategies associated with positive change.

I. Introduction

Child Welfare Outcomes 2003: Annual Report to Congress (Report to Congress) is the sixth in a series of annual reports prepared by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (the Department). The Department is responsible for monitoring programs and services that address the needs of children and families who come into contact with public child welfare systems. The Children's Bureau, an agency within the Department's Administration for Children and Families, carries out these responsibilities and prepares the Reports to Congress.

The Reports to Congress are prepared in accordance with section 479A of the Social Security Act, as amended by the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997. (Appendix A provides the specifications of section 479A.) As indicated in section 479A, the primary purpose of the reports is “. . . to assess the performance of States in operating child protection and child welfare programs . . .” To achieve this purpose, the Department consulted with State and local child welfare agency administrators, child advocacy organizations, child welfare researchers, and other experts in the child welfare field to identify outcomes and measures reflecting widely accepted performance objectives for child welfare practice. The Department established the following national outcomes based on information from this consultation process:

- **Outcome 1**—Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect
- **Outcome 2**—Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care
- **Outcome 3**—Increase permanency for children in foster care
- **Outcome 4**—Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry
- **Outcome 5**—Reduce time in foster care to adoption
- **Outcome 6**—Increase placement stability
- **Outcome 7**—Reduce placements of young children in group homes or institutions

The Department developed 12 measures (presented in appendix B) to assess performance on these national outcomes. The Report to Congress provides information about each State's performance on each measure in a given year.¹ To enhance interpretation of a State's performance on the measures, the Report to Congress includes the following context information for each State:

- The number and race/ethnicity of children (younger than age 18) in the State's population.
- The number and characteristics (age, race/ethnicity, and type of maltreatment) of child maltreatment victims (defined as children who are the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment allegation).²
- The number and characteristics (age and race/ethnicity) of children in foster care at the start of the fiscal year and of children who entered and exited foster care during the fiscal year.³
- The median length of stay of children in foster care.

¹ The Report to Congress references particular years without a designation of calendar year or fiscal year for ease of reading. Some of the data from the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System are based on calendar year data, while other data from that system reflect fiscal year data. All data from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System are on a fiscal year basis.

² *Child Maltreatment 2003* provides the following definitions: (1) *Substantiation* refers to a type of investigation disposition that concludes that the allegation of maltreatment or risk of maltreatment was supported or founded by State law or State policy; (2) *Indicated* refers to an investigation disposition that concludes that maltreatment cannot be substantiated under State law or policy, but there was reason to suspect that the child may have been maltreated or was at risk of maltreatment. This is applicable only to States that distinguish between substantiated and indicated dispositions.

³ The term “foster care” as it is used in the Report to Congress refers to a variety of out-of-home placement settings, including foster family homes, group homes, shelters, residential treatment facilities, and similar placements for children who are in the State's placement and care responsibility for a period of 24 hours or more.

- The number and characteristics (age and race/ethnicity) of children “waiting for adoption”.⁴
- The number and characteristics (age and race/ethnicity) of children for whom an adoption was finalized during the fiscal year.

Data on the number and race/ethnicity of children in the State population come from the U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey. The data for the outcome measures and context information come from the Department’s Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) and National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS). The specific NCANDS and AFCARS data elements used for the Report to Congress are provided in appendix C.

The Report to Congress and the Child and Family Services Review

The Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) is the Department’s results-oriented, comprehensive monitoring system, implemented in fiscal year 2001. The CFSR was developed in response to a mandate in the Social Security Amendments of 1994 requiring the Department to promulgate regulations for reviews of State child and family services programs under titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act.

Both the Report to Congress and the CFSR are designed to assess State performance with regard to child welfare practices and outcomes. However, they are separate activities within the Department and differ with regard to the performance assessment process. One key difference is that information about State performance in the Report to Congress comes only from NCANDS and AFCARS. In comparison, information about State performance in the CFSR comes from a range of information sources in addition to AFCARS and NCANDS. These additional sources include intensive case reviews, interviews and focus groups with stakeholders in each State, and State self-assessment reports. Consequently, the CFSR provides more comprehensive information about State performance than does the Report to Congress.

Despite their differences, the Report to Congress and the CFSR share the following goals: (1) to inform Congress, the Department, the States, and the public about State performance with regard to achieving desired outcomes for children who come into contact with public child welfare systems; and (2) to identify areas needing improvement so that targeted technical assistance can be provided to States. Appendix D provides a listing and description of the training and technical assistance resource centers established by the Department to provide this assistance.

To achieve these goals and connect the CFSR and the Report to Congress outcomes, the Department adopted six of the Report to Congress outcome measures for use in the CFSR and established national performance standards for these measures. These standards were used in the initial implementation of the CFSR as part of the Department’s determination of a State’s substantial conformity with specific CFSR outcomes. Additional information about the CFSR and the national standards established for the six outcome measures is provided in appendices E (CFSR information) and F (national standards information).

Organization of the Report to Congress

Child Welfare Outcomes 2003: Annual Report to Congress provides data for each State on each of the 12 outcome measures and context variables. The report also presents and discusses key findings regarding State performance on each of the outcomes and measures.⁵ The specific focus of each subsequent chapter is described below.

⁴ There is no Federal definition of children waiting to be adopted. For analytical purposes, the Department has defined children waiting to be adopted as children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. Children 16 years of age and older who have a goal of emancipation and whose parents have had their parental rights terminated are excluded from this population. State definitions of children waiting for adoption may differ from the Department’s definition.

⁵ The term “State” in the Report to Congress includes Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia as well as the 50 States. Consequently, up to 52 “States” may be included in the discussion of findings.

Chapter II: Achieving Safety-Related Outcomes. This chapter presents findings pertaining to (1) State performance on the national outcomes related to children’s safety, and (2) the relationships between State performance on these outcomes and the number and characteristics of State child maltreatment victims.⁶

Chapter III: Achieving Permanency-Related Outcomes for Children in Foster Care. This chapter provides key findings regarding (1) State performance on the national outcomes related to achieving permanency for children, and (2) the relationships between State performance on these outcomes and the characteristics of State foster care populations.⁷

Chapter IV: Achieving Outcomes Related to Placement Stability and Appropriate Placements for Young Children in Foster Care. This chapter reports key findings pertaining to State performance in achieving placement stability for children in foster care and preventing the placement of young children in group homes or institutions. The chapter also reports findings regarding the relationships between State performance on these outcomes and the characteristics of State foster care populations.

Chapter V: State Performance on the Seven National Child Welfare Outcomes. This chapter provides an overall discussion of the findings and their implications for understanding State performance with regard to achieving the national outcomes.

Chapter VI: State Data Pages. This chapter presents the data pages for each State. The data pages also include: (1) any comments submitted by a State regarding its data⁸, and (2) a Federal Comment section providing a brief analysis of a State’s performance. Data are presented for 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003.⁹

⁶ For purposes of the Report to Congress, a victim of child abuse or neglect is defined as a child for whom an allegation of abuse or neglect has been substantiated or indicated by an investigation or assessment. This definition is from Child Maltreatment 2003.

⁷ For purposes of the Report to Congress, a child is considered to be in foster care if the child is under the care and placement responsibility of the State or county child welfare agency for at least 24 hours.

⁸ Prior to publication of the Report to Congress, the Department disseminates each State’s data pages to State child welfare agency administrators and data system managers. Based on this review, the State may resubmit data and/or provide formal comments to clarify various aspects of the data. These comments are included in the report with the State’s data pages.

⁹ A decision was made to exclude 1999 data in this report because several States had substantive data quality issues in that year that were corrected in 2000.

II.

Achieving Safety-related Outcomes

A primary objective of State child welfare systems is to ensure that children who have been found to be victims of abuse or neglect are protected from further abuse or neglect, whether they remain in their own homes or are placed by the State child welfare agency in a foster care setting. The Department established the following safety-related national outcomes and measures to assess State performance with regard to protecting child victims from further abuse or neglect:

Outcome 1—Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

Outcome measure 1.1—Of all children who were victims of substantiated or indicated child abuse and/or neglect during the first 6 months of the reporting period, what percentage had another substantiated or indicated report within a 6-month period?¹⁰

Outcome 2 —Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

Outcome measure 2.1—Of all children who were in foster care during the reporting period, what percentage was the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member?

The Department established the following national standards for these outcome measures for use in its national child welfare monitoring system, the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR). (Appendices E and F provide additional information on the CFSR and the national standards.):

- Of all children who were victims of substantiated or indicated child abuse and/or neglect during the first 6 months of the period under review, *6.1 percent or fewer* children had another substantiated or indicated report within 6 months of the first report.
- Of all children in foster care in the State during the period under review, *0.57 percent or fewer* were the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member.

This chapter presents the following information:

- State performance in 2003 on the safety-related outcome measures.¹¹
- The change in State performance from 2000 to 2003 on the safety-related outcome measures.
- The relationship between State performance on the safety-related outcome measures and the number and characteristics of child maltreatment victims.

For the most part, data reported in this chapter come from the Department's National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS). Through NCANDS, the Department collects and analyzes data on children who come into contact with public child protective services (CPS) agencies as alleged victims of child abuse or neglect. The Department prepares an annual report on NCANDS data entitled *Child Maltreatment*. The highlights of findings from *Child Maltreatment 2003* are presented in appendix G.

The number of States included in each analysis varies because NCANDS is a voluntary system and not all States submit the relevant data to NCANDS. The primary data source for the Report to Congress safety-related outcome measures is the NCANDS Child File. The Child File is a data file that States submit to NCANDS on a periodic basis that contains detailed case information about children who are the subjects of

¹⁰ The Child File of the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System cannot track children from one year to the next. Therefore, a 6-month time frame for maltreatment recurrence was established to ensure that the measure captured the actual incidence of maltreatment recurrence rather than estimating the incidence. In addition, multiple research findings indicate that the highest incidence of maltreatment recurrence tends to occur within 6 months of a prior incident. Therefore, the Department determined that the 6-month time frame was sufficient to assess State performance in this area.

¹¹ NCANDS data were collected and reported on a calendar year basis through 2002. Beginning in 2003, they were reported on a Federal Fiscal Year basis (October 1 through September 30) to be consistent with AFCARS data.

an investigation or assessment in response to a maltreatment allegation. The Child File includes only those children for whom there has been a disposition (i.e., a “finding”) pertaining to the maltreatment allegation. The Department has strongly encouraged participation in this data system and provides technical assistance to States to assist them in collecting and reporting the relevant data. Participation in the NCANDS Child File has increased considerably over the past 5 years; 45 States participated in the NCANDS Child File in 2003 compared to 29 States in 1999.

A comprehensive understanding of State performance on the safety-related outcome measures requires a consideration of State statutes, policies, and practices pertaining to child maltreatment that may affect performance. For example, with regard to maltreatment recurrence within a 6-month period (outcome measure 1.1), in several States, it is a child welfare agency policy or an agency-wide practice that when a maltreatment allegation is received on a family currently being served by the CPS system, the allegation is referred to the current caseworker and/or supervisor for follow up rather than being referred for a formal investigation or assessment. In this situation, information on the child who is the subject of the allegation is not reported to the NCANDS Child File because there is no formal investigation or assessment of the allegation and no formal disposition. Consequently, the allegation is not “counted” as a possible incident of maltreatment recurrence.

In addition, some States have implemented an “alternative response” approach to maltreatment allegations. In many of these States, maltreatment allegations that are determined to involve very low risks for child safety are not formally investigated. Instead, the allegation is referred for a family assessment and no disposition is reached regarding the validity of the maltreatment allegation. Because there is no disposition, States do not submit an NCANDS Child File for the children who are the subject of allegations that are referred for an alternative response. States that have implemented this approach may show declines in the percentage of children experiencing maltreatment recurrence and may have lower incidences of maltreatment recurrence than States that have not implemented an alternative response approach. Other examples of the factors that may affect performance on the measure of maltreatment recurrence are State definitions of child maltreatment and State requirements concerning the level of evidence necessary to substantiate a maltreatment allegation.

The policies and practices pertaining to the types of information submitted to the NCANDS Child File also may affect State performance regarding the percentage of children in foster care who are maltreated by their foster parents or a facility staff member. For example, some States submit an NCANDS Child File for all children who are found to be victims of maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member, even if the child is not under the placement and care responsibility of the State child welfare system (e.g., the child is in the mental health system, juvenile justice system, or in a private care facility such as a mental health or substance abuse treatment facility). Although this is likely to involve only a small number of children, it can affect the calculation of the measure. That is, for these States, the calculation of State performance on the measure of maltreatment of children in foster care would include children in the numerator (number of children maltreated by a foster parent or facility staff member) who are not in the denominator (number of children in foster care during the reporting period).

The Department recently addressed this issue by instituting a system for identifying those child victims reported to the NCANDS Child File who also are reported to AFCARS as being in foster care. However, because in 2003, this system was not yet implemented by States in a consistent manner, for some States, the percentage of children reported as maltreated while in foster care in 2003 continues to be affected by this issue.

Because of the potential effect of State statutes and policies on performance, this report presents the findings regarding State performance in 2003 on the safety-related outcomes to depict the variation that exists among States rather than to compare the performance of States. Information regarding the change in performance on the outcome measures from 2000 to 2003 is provided to demonstrate the extent and direction of change occurring within individual States.

STATE PERFORMANCE IN 2003 ON THE SAFETY-RELATED OUTCOME MEASURES

Table II-1 presents key findings regarding State performance in 2003 on the safety-related outcome measures. In 2003, 45 States provided sufficient data for outcome measure 1.1, compared to only 34 States in 2000; 41 States submitted sufficient data in 2003 for outcome measure 2.1, compared to only 30 States in 2000.

Table II-1: State performance in 2003 on measures pertaining to outcome 1 (Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect) and outcome 2 (Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care)*

Outcome Measures	Performance Variables		
	Range	Mean percent	Median Percent
1.1: Percent of child victims experiencing a recurrence of child maltreatment within a 6-month period (N=45 States)	2.1-14.4%	7.3%	7.1%
2.1: Percent of children in foster care who were victims of maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member (N=41 States)	0.02-1.53	0.44	0.39

*The number of States identified for each measure reflects those that provided sufficient data to NCANDS to calculate the measure.

Figures II-1 and II-2 depict 2003 State performance on the safety-related measures. States not included in figure II-1 are Alabama, Alaska, Georgia, North Dakota, Oregon, Wisconsin, and Puerto Rico. States not included in figure II-2 are Alabama, Alaska, Connecticut, Georgia, Louisiana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oregon, Tennessee, Wisconsin, and Puerto Rico.

As shown in Figure II-1, States varied in the percent of children experiencing maltreatment recurrence within a 6-month period. At the low end, seven States had recurrence rates of 4.0 percent or less (Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia). At the high end, eight States had recurrence rates of 10 percent or more (Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New York, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Washington, and West Virginia).

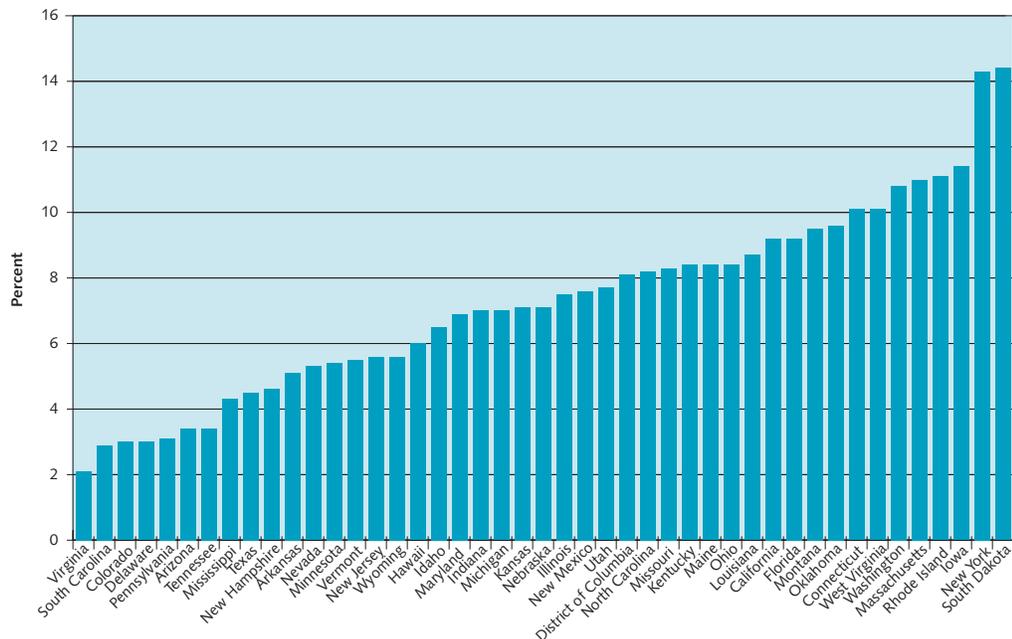


Figure II-1. Range of State performance in 2003 on outcome measure 1.1: Percent of children experiencing a maltreatment recurrence within a 6-month period (N=45)

Figure II-2 indicates that States also varied with regard to the percent of children in foster care who were maltreated by foster parents or facility staff members in 2003, although the percentages are quite small for this measure. In five States, less than 0.10 percent of children in foster care were reported to NCANDS as victims of maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member (Maine, Maryland, Nevada, Vermont, and Wyoming). In four States, more than one percent of the children in foster care were reported to be victims of maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member (Hawaii, Massachusetts, New Mexico, and Rhode Island).

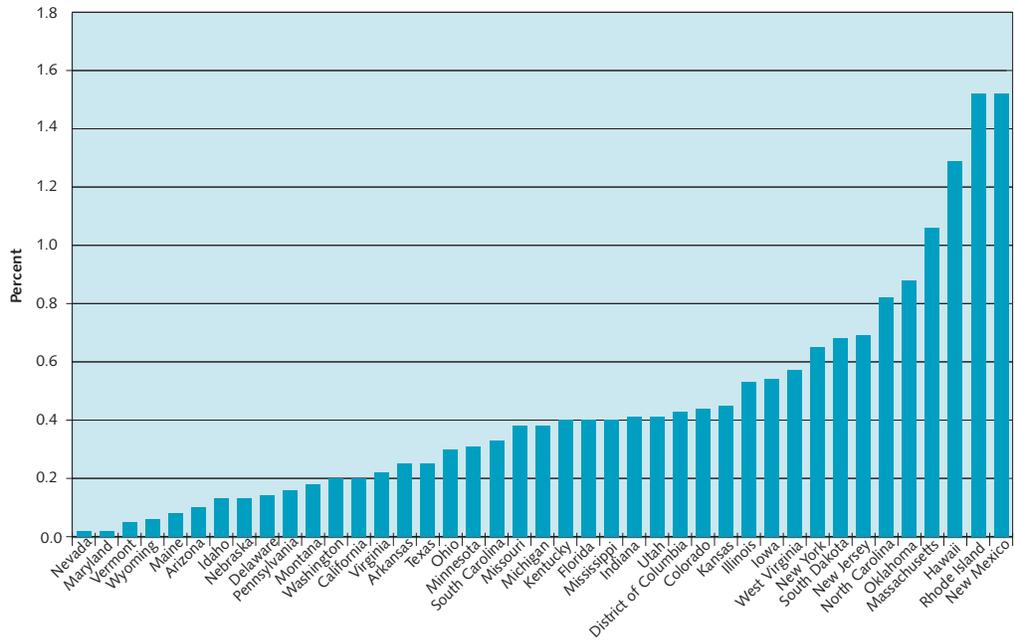


Figure II-2. Range in State performance in 2003 on outcome measure 2.1: Percent of children in foster care who were victims of maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member (N=41)

CHANGE IN STATE PERFORMANCE FROM 2000 TO 2003 ON THE SAFETY-RELATED OUTCOME MEASURES

Change in State performance on a particular outcome measure was assessed by calculating the percent change from 2000 to 2003.¹² Using a percent change calculation permits an assessment of the extent of change occurring over time by taking into account the size of the percentages being compared. For example, a change from 6 percent in 2000 to 7 percent in 2003 represents a change of only 1 percentage point; however, it reflects a +16.7 percent change. In contrast, a change from 75 percent to 80 percent represents a change of 5 percentage points, but only a +6.7 percent change. For purposes of the analyses presented in this chapter, if the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003 was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative), a determination was made that there was “no change” in performance. Because the outcome measures are assessed using percentages, small fluctuations across years are to be expected. Rather than identifying any percent change as a performance change, it was decided that a percent change greater than 5.0 would be a practical indicator of actual performance change.

Table II-2 presents key findings regarding the change in State performance from 2000 to 2003 on measures pertaining to children’s safety. The analyses included only those States that provided data for the measures in both years. Because the outcomes assessed focus on the *reduction* of recurrence of child abuse and/or

¹² Percent change is calculated by subtracting “old” data from “new” data, dividing by “old” data and multiplying by 100. For example, if maltreatment recurrence was 9.2 in 2000 and 7.6 in 2003, the percent change would be $[(7.6-9.2)/9.2] \times 100 = -17.4$ percent change.

neglect (outcome 1) and the *reduction* of the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care (outcome 2), a negative percent change represents an improvement in performance while a positive percent change represents a performance decline.

Table II-2: Number and percent of States exhibiting improvement, decline, or no change in performance from 2000 to 2003 with regard to safety-related outcome measures*

Outcome Measures	Change in Performance from 2000 to 2003		
	Improved performance (number and percent of States)	Declined performance (number and percent of States)	No change in performance (number and percent of States)
Measure 1.1: Percent of child victims experiencing a recurrence of child maltreatment within a 6-month period (N=34 States)	18 (53%)	10 (29%)	6 (18%)
Measure 2.1: Percent of children in foster care who were victims of maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member (N=26 States)	19 (73%)	5 (19%)	2 (8%)

*The number of States for each measure (N) includes those States that submitted sufficient data to calculate the measure in both 2000 and 2003.

Figures II-3 and II-4 depict the extent of change of individual States in performance on these safety-related measures. States excluded from Figure II-3 are Alabama, Alaska, Colorado, District of Columbia, Georgia, Idaho, Maryland, Mississippi, Nevada, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, and Wisconsin. States excluded from figure II-4 are Alabama, Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Idaho, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

As shown in Figure II-3, four States had more than a -25.0 percent change on the measure of maltreatment recurrence, reflecting a substantial performance improvement (Arizona, Montana, New Hampshire, and Vermont). In contrast, four States had at least a +40.0 percent change, reflecting a considerable decline in performance (Maine, Michigan, Missouri, and West Virginia).

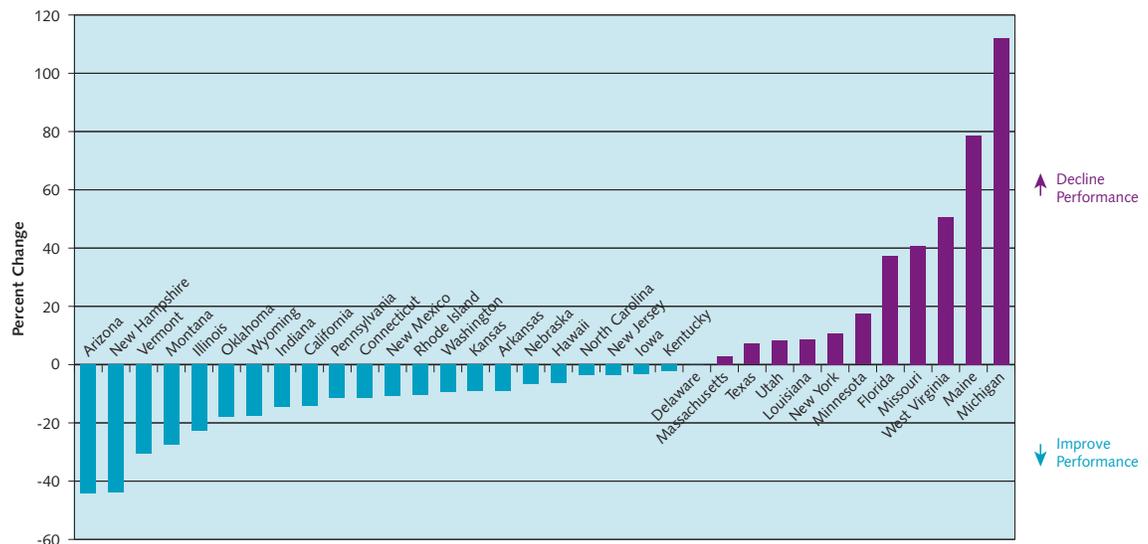


Figure II-3. Percent change from 2000 to 2003 in State performance on outcome measure 1.1: Percent of children experiencing a maltreatment recurrence within a 6-month period (N = 34)

Similar results were found for the measure of maltreatment of children in foster care. As shown in figure II-4, there was a substantial improvement in performance in four States (Arizona, New Jersey, Vermont, and Wyoming) and a substantial decline in performance in four States (Arkansas, Florida, Minnesota, and Nebraska). However, because most of the percentages for this measure are less than 1.0, differences in percentage points that are quite small can result in a fairly large percent change.



Figure II-4. Percent change from 2000 to 2003 in State performance on outcome measure 2.1: Percent of children in foster care who were victims of maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member (N = 26)

RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN STATE PERFORMANCE ON SAFETY-RELATED OUTCOME MEASURES AND THE NUMBER AND CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILD VICTIMS

Analyses were conducted to examine the relationships between State performance in 2003 on the safety-related outcome measures and the following:

- Child maltreatment victim rates
- Age of child victims
- Race/ethnicity of child victims
- Types of maltreatment experienced by child victims

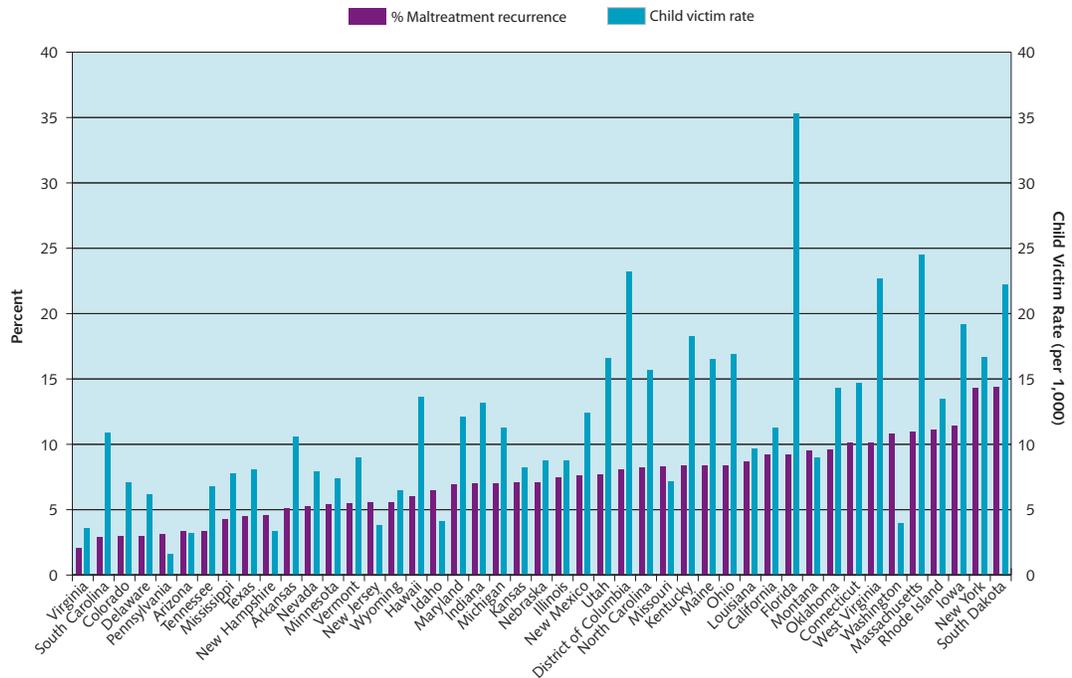
Child maltreatment victim rates

A State's child maltreatment victim rate is the number of child victims per 1,000 children in the State's population, with "victim" defined as a child reported to NCANDS who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment allegation.¹³ In 2003, child victim rates varied considerably across States, from 1.6 in Pennsylvania¹⁴ to 42.2 in Alaska, with a median of 10.6. In seven States, there were fewer than five child victims per 1,000 children in the population (Arizona, Idaho, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington). In contrast, in six States, there were more than 20 child victims per 1,000 children in the population (Alaska, District of Columbia, Florida, Massachusetts, South Dakota, and West Virginia); in two of these six States (Alaska and Florida), there were more than 35 child victims per 1,000 children in the population.

¹³ A child who is the subject of more than one substantiated or indicated maltreatment allegation may be counted more than once.

¹⁴ Pennsylvania's low victim rate is due to the fact that reports of child neglect (unless determined to be "severe") are not handled by the child protective services system. Therefore, the State does not report child neglect to NCANDS unless it is severe neglect.

A relationship was found between State victim rates in 2003 and the percent of maltreatment recurrence within a 6-month period in 2003 (Pearson's $r = 0.63$). As shown in Figure II-5, States with a relatively high percent of maltreatment recurrence within a 6-month period also tended to have a relatively high child victim rate. States not included in figure II-5 are Alabama, Alaska, Georgia, North Dakota, Oregon, Puerto Rico, and Wisconsin. An additional finding was that 23 (82 percent) of the 28 States that exhibited a change (either positive or negative) from 2000 to 2003 in performance on the measure of maltreatment recurrence also exhibited a change in the child victim rate in the same direction. That is, if the maltreatment recurrence percentage increased, the victim rate also increased and vice versa. The relationship between victim rates and maltreatment recurrence is discussed further in chapter V.



Child maltreatment victim characteristics

Table II-3 presents information pertaining to the age, type of maltreatment experienced, and race/ethnicity of child maltreatment victims. As shown in the table, the characteristics of child victims varied across States.

Table II-3: Characteristics of child victims in 2003

Characteristics of Child Victims	Percent range across States	Median percent across States
Age of children at time of maltreatment report		
Not yet 1 year old	5.4 – 16.0 %	9.7 %
At least 1 but not yet 6 years old	20.2 – 37.2	30.9
At least 6 years old, but not yet 11 years old	24.1 – 31.5	27.6
At least 11 years old, but not yet 16 years old	18.3 – 37.6	24.7
At least 16 years old	3.2 – 12.1	5.3
Type of maltreatment experienced*		
Neglect (not medical neglect)	3.9 – 90.4	64.8
Physical abuse	3.1 – 59.1	20.8
Psychological/emotional abuse	0 – 58.0	2.5
Sexual abuse	3.0 – 57.2	9.3
Medical neglect	0 – 12.5	2.0
Other	0 – 88.2	0.1
Children's race/ethnicity		
Alaska Native/American Indian	<0.1 – 46.8	0.3
Asian	<0.1 – 11.5	0.5
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	<0.1 – 19.8	0.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	0.8 – 55.9	15.5
Hispanic (of any race)	0.3 – 46.6	4.7
White (non-Hispanic)	0.4 – 94.6	53.2
Multiple Races	<0.1 – 26.2	1.2

* Variations in types of maltreatment experienced may be attributed to differences in State definitions of maltreatment. For example, in some States but not others, psychological or emotional abuse is included in the State definition of child abuse and neglect.

The following relationships were found between State variation in the characteristics of child victims and State performance on the safety-related outcome measures:

- States with a relatively high percentage of children who were victims of sexual abuse tended to have a relatively low percentage of maltreatment recurrence within a 6-month period and vice versa (Pearson's $r = -0.40$).
- States with a relatively high percentage of children who were victims of neglect tended to have a relatively high percentage of maltreatment recurrence within a 6-month period and vice versa (Pearson's $r = 0.40$).

No relationships were found between State performance on the safety-related outcome measures and State variation with regard to the age of child victims. Also, no relationships were found between State performance on the safety-related outcome measures and State variation with regard to the race/ethnicity of child victims. However, in many States, the percentage of children of color in the child victim population was considerably higher than their percentage in the State's child population. The differences were particularly large for Black children and Alaska Native/American Indian children. Specific information regarding these differences is presented in table II-4.

Table II-4: The relationships between the race/ethnicity of child victims in 2003 and the race/ethnicity of children in the State's child population in 2003 (N = 50 States*)

Relationship**	Race/Ethnicity of Children			
	Hispanic	White	Black	Alaska Native/ American Indian
Number and percent of States in which the percent of child victims exceeded the percent of children in the State's population	9 (18%)	0	41 (82%)	21 (42%)
Number and percent of States in which the percent of child victims was about equal to the percent of children in the State's population	27 (54%)	40 (80%)	9 (18%)	10 (20%)
Number and percent of States in which the percent of child victims was less than the percent of children in the State's population	14 (28%)	10 (20%)	0	19 (38%)
Total	50 (100%)	50 (100%)	50 (100%)	50 (100%)

*Data are not available for Puerto Rico or Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania is not included because State law does not permit reporting of the race/ethnicity of child victims. Puerto Rico does not submit these data to NCANDS.

** The following approach was used to determine the nature of the relationship: A determination of "Exceeded" was made if the percent of child victims of a particular race/ethnicity was at least 1.3 times the percent in the State's child population. A determination of "less-than" was made if the percent of child victims of a particular race/ethnicity was less than 0.7 times the percent in the State's child population.

The following findings indicate that the over-representation of a particular race/ethnicity in the child victim population in 2003 was quite large in some States:

- In Connecticut, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota the percent of child victims who were Hispanic was at least twice the percent of Hispanic children in the population.
- In Minnesota, Nebraska, Oregon, and Washington, the percent of child victims who were Native American was more than four times the percent of Native American children in the population.
- In Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming, the percent of Black child victims was more than three times the percent of Black children in the State population.

It has been a consistent finding in the Reports to Congress and in the research field that Black children and Alaska Native/American Indian children are over-represented in the child victim population in many States and White children are under-represented in the child victim populations in all States. The causes and implications of both the over-representation and the under-representation are not clearly understood at this time.

III. Achieving Permanency-related Outcomes for Children in Foster Care

The Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) of 1997 emphasized permanency as a primary goal for children in foster care and provided guidelines for achieving this goal in a timely manner. A key concern addressed by ASFA is that too many children “grow up” in foster care. That is, they spend too many of their formative years in a foster care placement rather than in a permanent home. Federal law and policy direct that, if it is necessary to remove children from their homes, concerted efforts must be made either to return them to their families quickly and safely or to quickly find another permanent home for them.

A child in foster care is determined to have achieved permanency when any of the following occurs: (1) the child is discharged from foster care to a reunification with his or her family, either a parent or other relative; (2) the child is discharged from foster care to a legally finalized adoption; or (3) the child is discharged from foster care to the care of a legal guardian. The Department established the following national outcomes and measures to assess State performance with regard to achieving permanency for children in foster care:

Outcome 3—Increase permanency for children in foster care

Outcome measure 3.1—Of all children who exited foster care during the reporting period, what percentage left either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?

Outcome measure 3.2—Of all children who exited foster care and were identified as having a diagnosed disability, what percentage left either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?

Outcome measure 3.3—Of all children who exited foster care and were older than age 12 at the time of their most recent entry into foster care, what percentage left either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?

Outcome measure 3.4—Of all children who exited foster care to emancipation, what percentage was age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care?

Outcome measure 3.5—Of all children who exited foster care, what percentage by racial/ethnic category left either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?

Outcome 4—Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

Outcome measure 4.1—Of all children who were reunified with their parents or caretakers at the time of discharge from foster care, what percentage was reunified in the following time periods?

- (1) less than 12 months*
- (2) at least 12 months but less than 24 months*
- (3) at least 24 months but less than 36 months*
- (4) at least 36 months but less than 48 months*
- (5) 48 or more months*

Outcome measure 4.2—Of all children who entered foster care during the reporting period, what percentage re-entered care:

- (1) within 12 months of a prior foster care episode?*
- (2) 12 months or more after a prior foster care episode?*

Outcome 5—Reduce time in foster care to adoption

Outcome measure 5.1—Of all children who exited foster care to a finalized adoption, what percentage exited care in the following time periods?

- (1) less than 12 months from the time of the latest removal from home*
- (2) at least 12 months but less than 24 months*
- (3) at least 24 months but less than 36 months*
- (4) at least 36 months but less than 48 months*
- (5) 48 or more months*

The Department also adopted parts of outcome measures 4.1, 4.2, and 5.1 for the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) and established national standards for these measures. The standards were used as part of the assessment of a State's substantial conformity with particular CFSR outcomes. (See appendices E and F for more information on the CFSR and the national standards.) The following are the measures and standards adopted for the CFSR:

- Of all children who were reunified with their parents or caretakers at the time of discharge from foster care, *76.2 percent or more* were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of the latest removal from home (adopted from outcome measure 4.1).
- Of all children who entered foster care during the reporting period, *8.6 percent or less* re-entered foster care within 12 months of a prior foster care episode (adopted from outcome measure 4.2).
- Of all children who exited foster care to a finalized adoption, *32 percent or more* exited foster care in less than 24 months from the time of the latest removal from home (adopted from outcome measure 5.1).

This chapter provides the following information:

- State performance in 2003 on the permanency-related outcome measures.
- The change in State performance from 2000 to 2003 on select permanency-related outcome measures.
- The relationship between State performance in 2003 on permanency-related outcome measures and the number and characteristics of children in foster care.

The data reported in this chapter are from the Federal Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS). AFCARS is the Department's national system for collecting, analyzing, and reporting data on children who are served by State and local foster care systems.¹⁵ The annual AFCARS report for 2003 is presented in appendix H.

The number of States varies for the findings presented in this chapter. States were excluded from an analysis if they did not report the necessary data or if there were substantial data quality issues in a given year, usually related to missing data or data discrepancies.¹⁶

Understanding State performance on the permanency-related outcome measures requires a consideration of State statutes, policies, and practices that may affect performance. For example, some States, by law, policy, or practice, require the child welfare agency to maintain its placement and care responsibilities for a period of time (usually between 3 to 6 months) after a child is physically reunified with his or her family. The fact that these children continue to be reported to AFCARS as being in foster care affects State performance on the outcome measure pertaining to time in foster care prior to reunification.

¹⁵ The term "foster care" as it is used in the Report to Congress refers to a variety of out-of-home placement settings, including foster family homes, group homes, shelters, residential treatment facilities, and similar placements for children who are in the State's placement and care responsibility for a period of 24 hours or more.

¹⁶ States were excluded from several analyses if 15 percent or more of the exits from foster care did not have "reason for discharge" information. States also were excluded from the analysis of performance regarding the timeliness of adoptions (outcome measure 5.1) if there was a substantial discrepancy between the number of finalized adoptions submitted to the AFCARS Adoption file and the number of children reported to the AFCARS foster care file as exiting foster care with a discharge reason of adoption.

Because of the potential effect of State statutes and policies on performance on the outcome measures, the information regarding State performance in 2003 on the permanency-related outcome measures is provided to demonstrate the variation across States rather than to compare performance among States. Information regarding the change in performance from 2000 to 2003 is presented to depict the extent of change in performance for individual States.

STATE PERFORMANCE IN 2003 ON PERMANENCY-RELATED OUTCOME MEASURES

Achieving permanency

Outcome 3 (increase permanency for children in foster care) targets State performance in achieving permanency for children exiting foster care, with permanency defined as reunification (including living with relative), adoption, or legal guardianship. Under AFCARS, children exiting foster care who are not discharged to a permanent home may exit for the following reasons: (1) Emancipation; (2) Transfer to Other Agency, or (3) Death. The latter category is a fairly rare occurrence.

Table III-1 presents key findings with regard to State performance in 2003 on the permanency-related measures developed for outcome 3.

Table III-1: State performance in 2003 on the permanency-related measures pertaining to outcome 3—increase permanency for children in foster care*

Outcome Measures	Performance Variables		
	Range	Mean percent	Median percent
Measure 3.1: Percent of all children exiting foster care who were discharged to a permanent home** (N=51 States)	71.9-96.1%	85.9%	86.3%
Measure 3.2: Percent of all children with a diagnosed disability exiting foster care who were discharged to a permanent home (N=48 States)	36.4-96.5	77.6	79.5
Measure 3.3: Percent of all children exiting foster care who entered foster care when they were older than age 12 who were discharged to a permanent home (N=48 States)	37.8-90.9	71.2	72.2
Measure 3.4: Percent of all children who were emancipated from foster care who entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (N=52 States)	5.1-65.1	29.2	29.6
Measure 3.5a: Percent of all White (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care who were discharged to a permanent home (N=50 States) ***	69.2-94.1	85.7	85.7
Measure 3.5b: Percent of all Black (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care who were discharged to a permanent home (N=36 States)***	68.1-94.9	84.4	85.6
Measure 3.5c: Percent of all Hispanic children exiting foster care who were discharged to a permanent home (N=15 States)***	82.4-95.9	88.4	87.3
Measure 3.5d: Percent of all Alaska Native/American Indian children exiting foster care who were discharged to a permanent home (N=7 States)***	69.0-92.4	80.7	82.0

*The number of States (N) varies because States were excluded if the reason for discharge was missing for at least 15 percent of the children exiting foster care.

**A discharge to a permanent home is a discharge to reunification (including living with relative), adoption, or guardianship.

*** The number of States for this measure includes only those in which at least 10 percent of the exits from foster care were of the particular race/ethnicity identified in the measure—i.e., White (non-Hispanic), Black (non-Hispanic), Hispanic, or Alaska Native/American Indian.

As shown in table III-1, the median percentage across States for outcome measure 3.1 was 86.3, and the lowest percentage for any State was 71.9. Figure III-1 demonstrates the narrow range across States regarding performance on this measure (Mississippi is excluded from the figure).

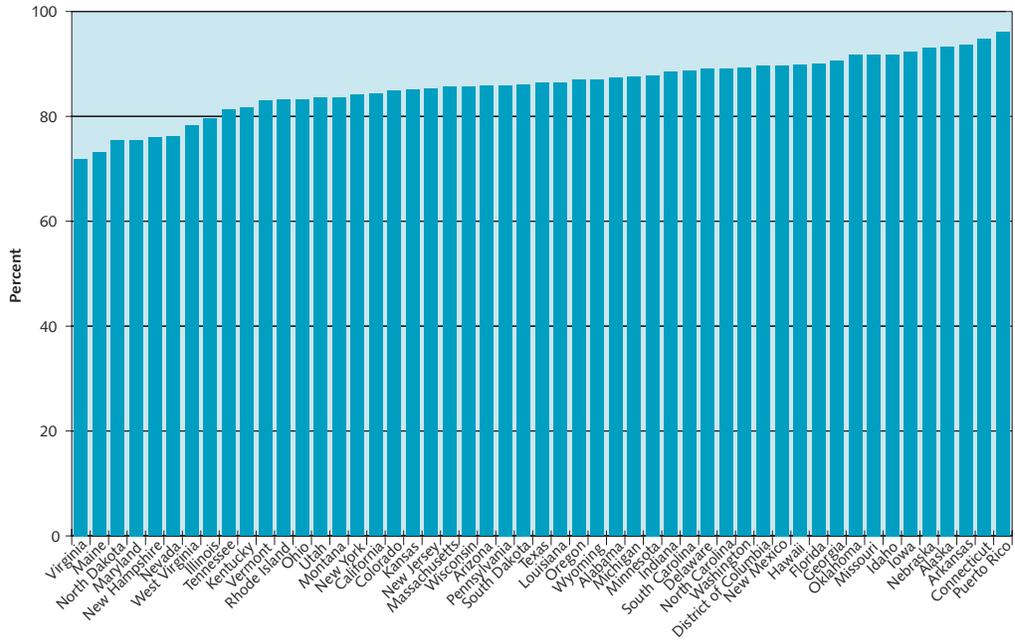


Figure III-1. Range of State performance in FY 2003 on outcome measure 3.1: Percent of children exiting foster care who were discharged to a permanent home (N =51)

These findings indicate that most children exiting foster care in 2003 were discharged to a permanent home. The discharge reason for most of these children was either adoption or reunification. There were only four States in which guardianship accounted for 10 percent or more of the exits to permanency (Arizona, Hawaii, Missouri, and North Carolina). In six States, no child was reported as discharged from foster care to guardianship (Alabama, New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, Texas, and Virginia).

The data in table III-1 also indicate that although States were generally effective in 2003 in achieving permanency for children exiting foster care, they were less effective in achieving permanency when the children exiting foster care had a diagnosed disability (outcome measures 3.2) or were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (outcome measure 3.3). The median percents for these measures are substantially lower than they are for outcome measure 3.1.

Figure III-2 depicts the range in State performance for outcome measure 3.4—the percentage of children who emancipated from foster care in 2003 and who entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger. For one-half of the States, at least 30 percent of the children emancipated from foster care were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care. In 10 States, more than 40 percent of the children exiting foster care due to emancipation were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care.

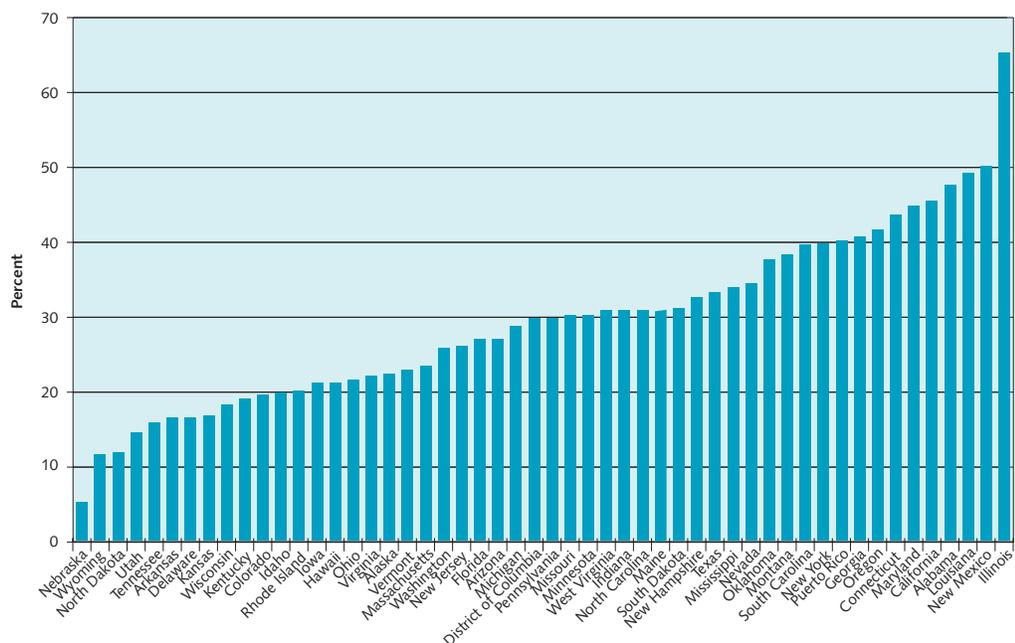


Figure III-2. Range of State performance in FY 2003 on outcome measure 3.4: Percent of children emancipated from foster care who were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (N = 52)

With respect to outcome measure 3.5 (discharges to permanency of children of different races/ ethnicity), for most States for which the analyses applied, there was little difference between the percentages of children of different races/ethnicity who were discharged to a permanent home in 2003.¹⁷ In these States, Black children, White children, Hispanic children, and Alaska Native/American Indian children exiting foster care were equally likely to exit to a permanent home. However, there were a few States in which achieving permanency appeared to vary as a function of the race/ethnicity of the child. These findings are presented below for the States included in the analyses.

- *Exits to permanency for White (non-Hispanic) children compared to Black (non-Hispanic) children (N= 36 States):* In seven of the 36 States, the percent of White (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care who were discharged to a permanent home was at least five percentage points higher than the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care who were discharged to a permanent home (Alabama, California, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia).
- *Exits to permanency for White (non-Hispanic) children compared to Hispanic children (N = 15 States):* In one of the 15 States, the percent of White (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care who were discharged to a permanent home was at least five percentage points higher than the percent of Hispanic children exiting foster care who were discharged to a permanent home (New York). In comparison, in two of the 15 States, the percent of White (non- Hispanic) children exiting foster care who were discharged to a permanent home was at least five percentage points lower than the percent of Hispanic children exiting foster care who were discharged to a permanent home (Nevada and Oregon).
- *Exits to permanency of Alaska Native/American Indian children compared to White (non-Hispanic) children (N = 7 States):* In two of the seven States, the percent of White (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care who were discharged to a permanent home was considerably larger than the

¹⁷ Comparisons with regard to exits to permanency for children of different races/ethnicity included only those States in which at least 10 percent of the exits from foster care were children of a particular race/ethnicity. As a result, comparisons involving Asian or Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander children were not possible because there was only one State in which at least 10 percent of the exiting population were in either of those groups.

percent of Alaska Native/American Indian children exiting foster care who were discharged to a permanent home (in New Mexico, there was a difference of 22 percentage points; in Oklahoma, there was a difference of 11.5 percentage points).

- *Exits to permanency of Black (non-Hispanic) children compared to Hispanic children (N=9 States).* In two of the nine States, the percent of Hispanic children exiting foster care who were discharged to a permanent home was at least five percentage points higher than the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care who were discharged to a permanent home (California and Nevada).

Achieving permanency in a timely manner

While outcome 3 assesses a State’s effectiveness in achieving permanency for children in foster care, outcome 4 (Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry) and outcome 5 (Reduce time in foster care to adoption) assess a State’s effectiveness in achieving permanency in a timely manner. Table III-2 presents State performance in 2003 on key measures relevant to these outcomes.

Table III-2: State performance in 2003 on the measures pertaining to outcome 4 (reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry) and outcome 5 (reduce time in foster care to adoption)*

Outcome Measures	Performance Variables		
	Range	Mean percent	Median percent
Measure 4.1a: Percent of children discharged to reunification who were reunified within 12 months of entry into foster care (N=51 States)	40.6-92.3%	69.5%	72.0%
Measure 4.1b: Percent of children discharged to reunification who were in foster care for at least 36 months before reunification (N=51 States)	0.5-16.4	5.0	3.5
Measure 4.2: Percent of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior foster care episode (N=52 States)	0.7-26.4	10.7	9.5
Measure 5.1a: Percent of children discharged to adoption within 24 months of entry into foster care (N=47 States)	5.0-75.8	27.2	23.9
Measure 5.1b: Percent of children discharged to adoption who were in foster care for at least 48 months before the adoption (N=47 States)	3.2-65.6	25.8	21.9

* The number of States (N) included in the analyses for each measure varies because States were excluded if at least 15 percent of the exits from foster care did not have a discharge reason or if there were other substantive data quality issues.

Figure III-3 depicts the range in State performance in 2003 for the percentage of reunifications occurring within 12 months of a child’s entry into foster care (outcome measure 4.1). The figure does not include Mississippi. In five States, less than 50 percent of the reunifications occurred within 12 months of entry into foster care (Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, and Nebraska). In contrast, in five States, 85 percent or more of the reunifications occurred within 12 months of a child’s entry into foster care (Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, Minnesota, and New Mexico).

The data in table III-2 also indicate that the vast majority of children who exited foster care to reunification were in foster care for less than 36 months. There were only five States in which more than 10 percent of the children discharged to reunification were in foster care for at least 36 months prior to the reunification (District of Columbia, Illinois, Maryland, Nebraska, and New York).

Figure III-4 demonstrates the variation in State performance in 2003 concerning the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode. At the low end, there were eight States in which less than 5 percent of the children entering foster care were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, Texas, and Wyoming). At the high end, in six States, at least 20 percent of the children entering foster care were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (Delaware, Iowa, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin).

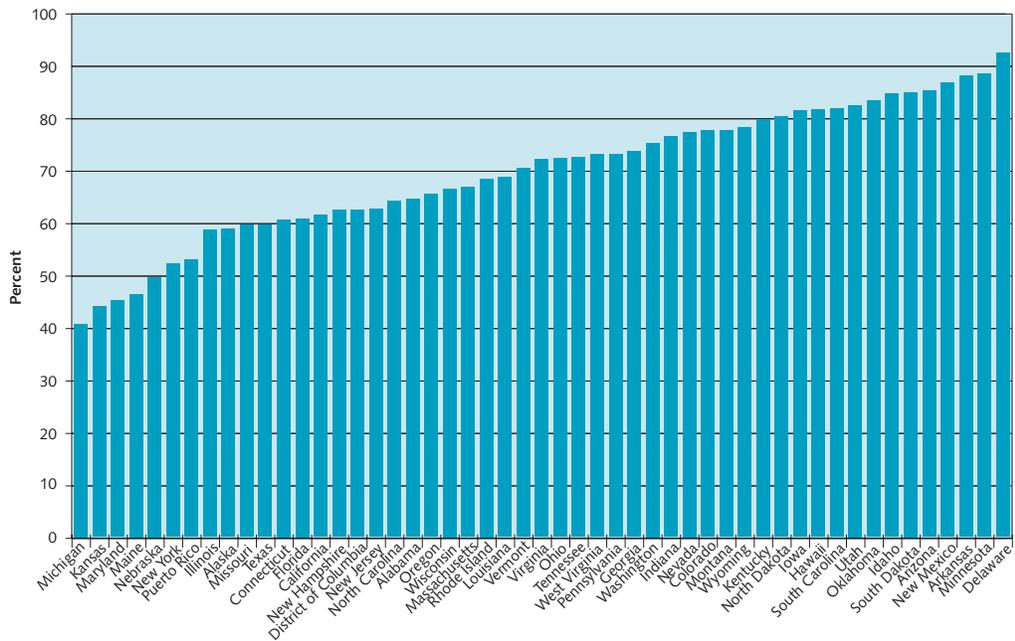


Figure III-3. Range of State performance in FY 2003 on outcome measure 4.1: Percent of reunifications that occurred within 12 months of the child's entry into foster care (N=51)

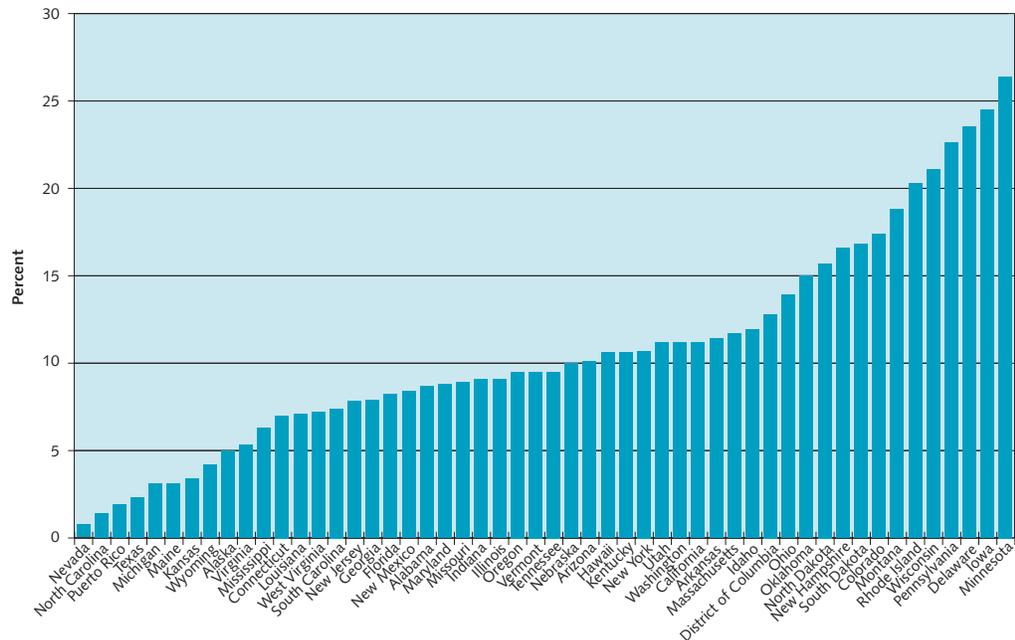


Figure III-4. Range of State performance in FY 2003 on outcome measure 4.2: Percent of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior foster care episode (N=52)

A key finding regarding State performance in 2003 on outcome 4 (Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry) is that States with a relatively high percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (measure 4.2) also tended to have a relatively high percentage of reunifications occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1) (Pearson's $r = 0.49$). This relationship is depicted in figure III-5.

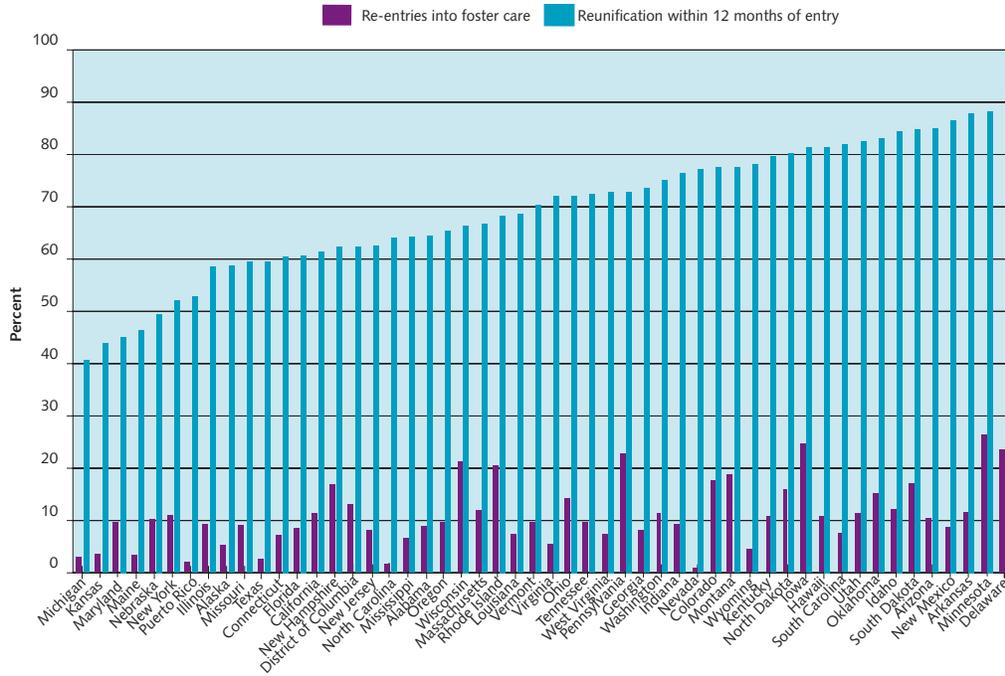


Figure III-5. State performance in FY 2003: The relationship between State performance with regard to reunifications occurring within 12 months and State performance with regard to re-entries occurring within 12 months ($r=0.49$) (N=52)

The range in State performance in 2003 concerning the percent of adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care is presented in figure III-6. The figure does not include the States of Maine, Mississippi, North Dakota, Puerto Rico, and Wisconsin. In four States, more than 50 percent of the children adopted had been in foster care for less than 24 months (Colorado, Iowa, Rhode Island, and Utah).

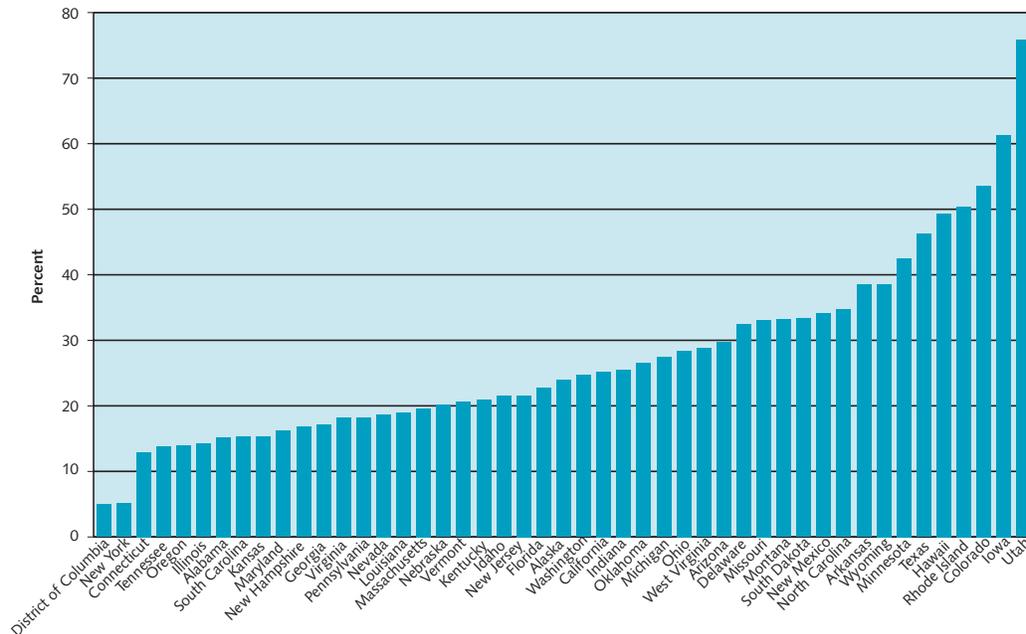


Figure III-6. State performance in FY 2003 on outcome measure 5.1: Percent of adoptions that occurred within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (N=47)

In comparison, in six States, less than 15 percent of the children adopted in 2003 had been in foster care for less than 24 months (Connecticut, District of Columbia, Illinois, New York, Oregon, and Tennessee).

A key finding regarding State performance in 2003 with regard to outcome 5 (Reduce time in foster care to adoption) was that States that had a relatively high percentage of children adopted within 24 months of entry into foster care tended to have a relatively low percentage of children adopted who were in foster care for at least 48 months (Pearson's $r = -0.79$). This relationship is depicted in figure III-7. Because the measure specifies two other possible time frames for an adoption to occur, i.e., (1) in at least 24 months but less than 36 months, and (2) in at least 36 months, but less than 48 months, an increase in adoptions within 24 months will not result automatically in a decrease in adoptions within 48 months. In fact, as shown by the correlation, in several States, this relationship did not occur.

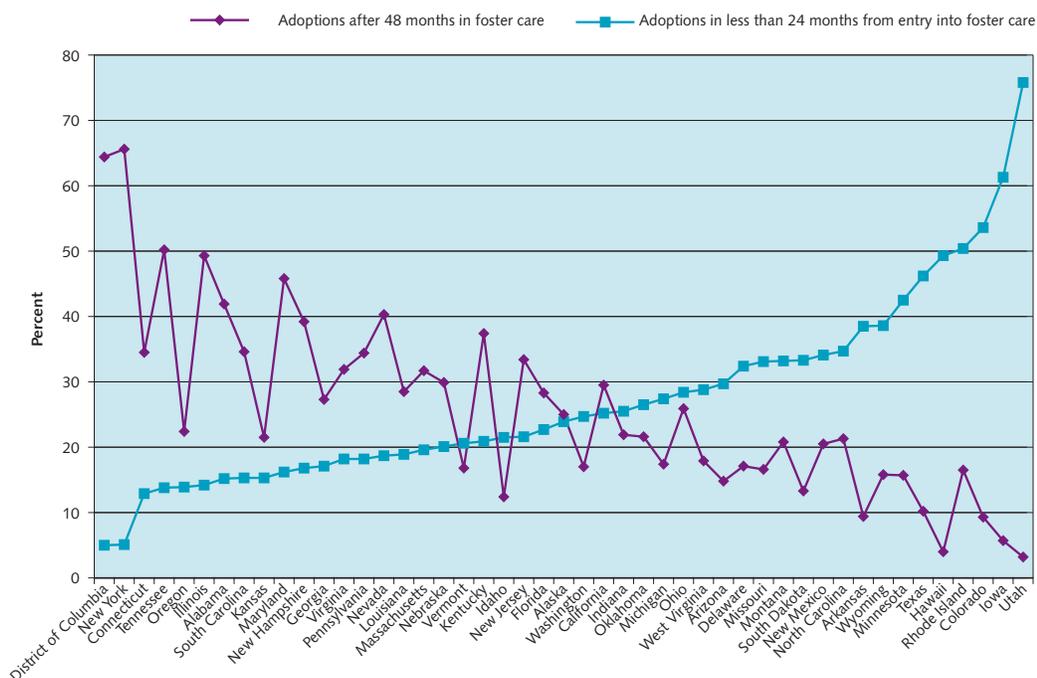


Figure III-7. State performance in FY 2003 on outcome measure 5.1: Comparison of percent of adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care and percent occurring after a child was in foster care for 48 or more months (N = 47)

CHANGE IN STATE PERFORMANCE FROM 2000 TO 2003 ON THE PERMANENCY-RELATED OUTCOME MEASURES

Changes in State performance were assessed by calculating the percent change from 2000 to 2003.¹⁸ If the percent change resulting from the calculation was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative), a determination was made of “no change” in performance.

Table III-3 presents findings regarding the change in State performance from 2000 to 2003 on key measures pertaining to achieving permanency for children in foster care. The analyses included only those States that provided data for a measure in both years. Because of the wording of the outcome measures, for measures 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 4.1 and 5.1, a positive percent change reflects an improvement in performance. In contrast, for measures 3.4 and 4.2, a positive percent change reflects a decline in performance.

¹⁸ Change in performance across years was assessed by calculating the percent change. This is calculated by subtracting “old” data from “new” data, dividing by “old” data and multiplying by 100. Therefore, if reunification within 12 months was 67 percent in 2000, and 73 percent in 2003, the percent change would be: $73 \text{ (new 2003 measure)} - 67 \text{ (old 2000 measure)} / 67 \text{ (old 2000 measure)} \text{ times } 100 \text{ (for percent)} = +8.96 \text{ percent change}$.

Table III-3: Number and percent of States exhibiting improvement, decline, or no change in performance from 2000 to 2003 with regard to selected permanency-related outcome measures*

Outcome Measures	Change in Performance from 2000 to 2003		
	Improved performance (number and percent of States)	Declined performance (number and percent of States)	No change in performance (number and percent of States)
Measure 3.1: Percent of all children exiting foster care who were discharged to a permanent home (N=43 States)	11 (26%)	3 (7%)	29 (67%)
Measure 3.2: Percent of all children with a diagnosed disability exiting foster care who were discharged to a permanent home (N=37 States)	9 (24%)	15 (41%)	13 (35%)
Measure 3.3: Percent of all children who entered foster care when they were older than age 12 who were discharged to a permanent home (N=39 States)	12 (31%)	8 (21%)	19 (49%)
Measure 3.4: Percent of all children emancipated from foster care who entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (N=47 States)	16 (34%)	24 (51%)	7 (15%)
Measure 4.1: Percent of all children discharged to reunification who were reunified within 12 months of entry into foster care (N=43 States)	14 (32%)	8 (19%)	21 (49%)
Measure 4.2: Percent of all children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior foster care episode (N=46 States)	17 (37%)	18 (39%)	11 (24%)
Measure 5.1: Percent of all children discharged to adoption who were adopted within 24 months of entry into foster care (N=34 States)	24 (70%)	6 (18%)	4 (12%)

*States were excluded if there were substantial data quality issues in either 2000 or 2003.

The following are noteworthy findings pertaining to a change in performance relevant to outcome 3— increase permanency for children in foster care:

- For 67 percent of the States, there was “no change” from 2000 to 2003 in the percentage of children exiting foster care who were discharged to a permanent home (outcome measure 3.1). This is not unexpected because most States performed at a very high level on this measure in 2000.
- For 49 percent of the States, there was no change in the percentage of children discharged to a permanent home who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (outcome measure 3.3).
- For 41 percent of the States, there was a decline in performance regarding the percentage of children with a diagnosed disability who were discharged to a permanent home (outcome measure 3.2).
- For 51 percent of the States, there was a decline in performance regarding the percentage of children emancipated from foster care who were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (outcome measure 3.4). The data presented in figure III-8 indicate that performance decline (represented by a positive percent change) on this measure was extensive for several States. Figure III-8 does not include Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, and Puerto Rico.

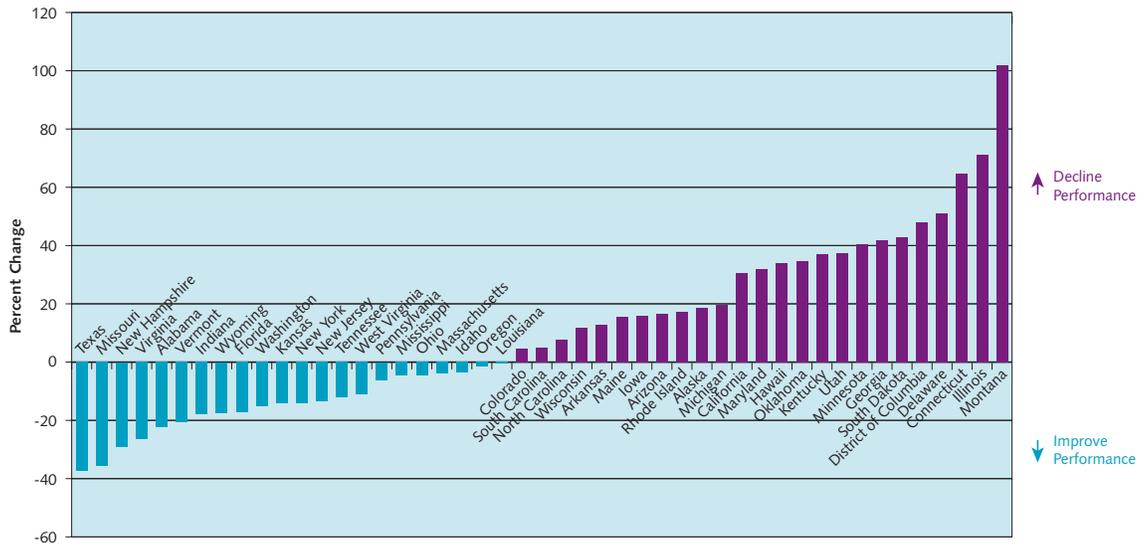


Figure III-8. Percent change from FY 2000 to FY 2003 in State performance on outcome measure 3.4: Percent of children emancipated from foster care who were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (N=47)

Key findings pertaining to a change in performance with regard to outcome 4 (reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry) and outcome 5 (reduce time in foster care to adoption) are presented below:

- Most of the 47 States included in the analysis of change in performance on outcome measure 4.1 either improved performance on the percentage of reunifications occurring within 12 months of a child’s entry into foster care (32 percent) or did not change in their performance on this measure (49 percent); only 19 percent of the States exhibited a decline in performance on this measure. Figure III-9 demonstrates the extent of change on this measure. The figure does not include Alaska, Maine, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, Texas, West Virginia, or Puerto Rico.
- For 39 percent of the 46 States included in the analysis of change in performance on outcome measure 4.2, there was a decline in performance regarding the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode. Figure III-10 depicts the extent of change on this measure. This figure excludes the District of Columbia, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, West Virginia, and Puerto Rico.
- For 70 percent of the 34 States included in the analysis of change in performance on outcome measure 5.1, there was an improvement in performance on the measure of adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child’s entry into foster care. As shown in figure III-11, for many of these States, the extent of improvement was substantial. This figure excludes Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, District of Columbia, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. The majority of exclusions are due to data quality issues in 2000.

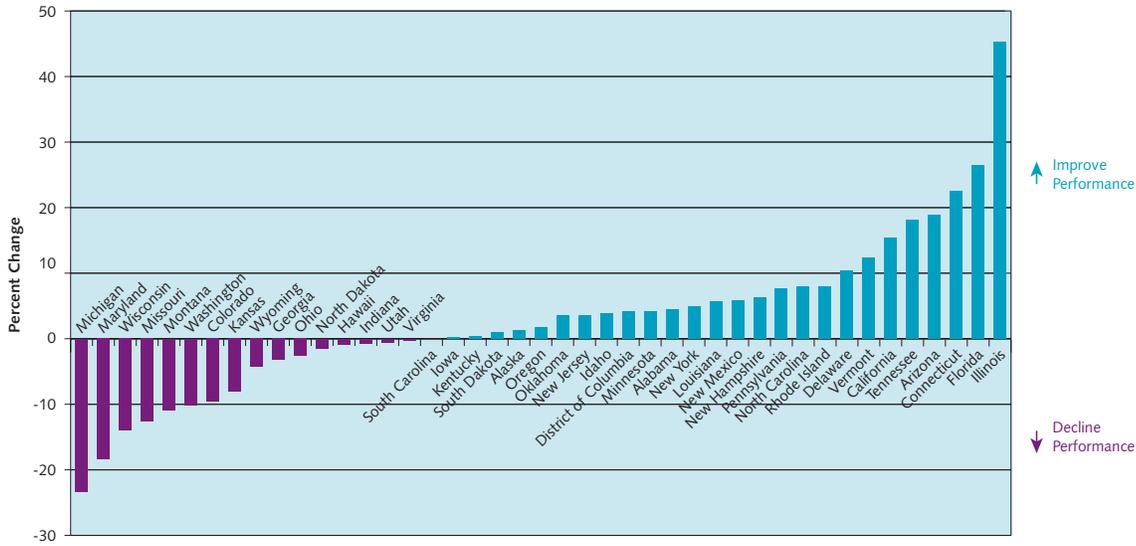


Figure III-9. Percent change from FY 2000 to FY 2003 in State performance on outcome measure 4.1: Percent of reunifications occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (N= 43)

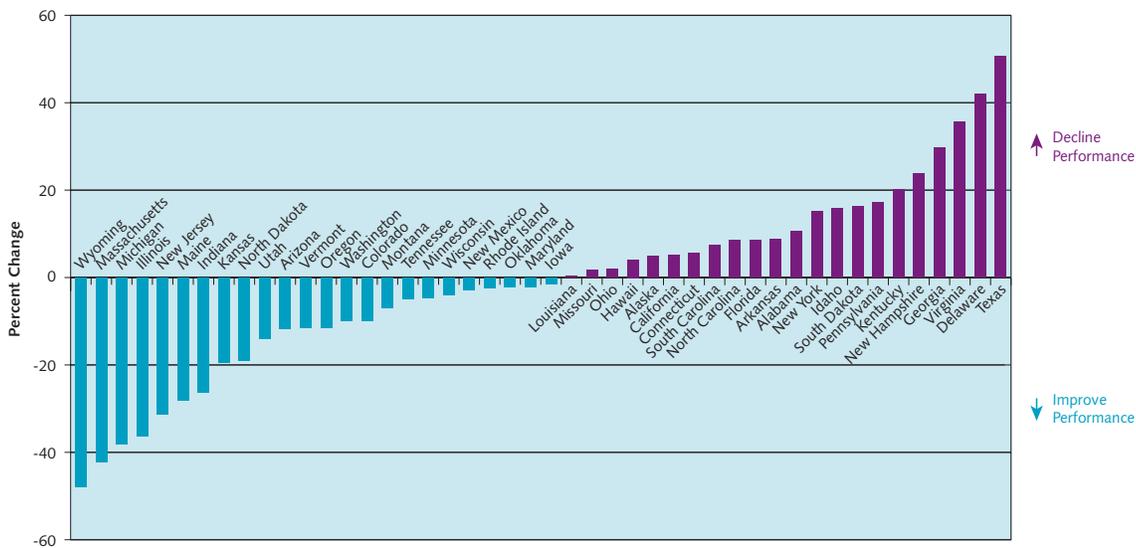


Figure III-10. Percent change from FY 2000 to FY 2003 in State performance on outcome measure 4.2: Percent of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (N= 46)

RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN STATE PERFORMANCE ON PERMANENCY-RELATED OUTCOME MEASURES AND THE NUMBER AND CHARACTERISTICS OF STATE FOSTER CARE POPULATIONS

The following sections present findings pertaining to the relationships between State performance on the permanency-related outcome measures and the following:

- Foster care entry rate
- Age of children at entry into foster care
- Race/ethnicity of children in foster care

Foster care entry rate

A State's foster care entry rate is represented by the number of children entering foster care per 1,000 children in the State's population. In 2003, the foster care entry rate ranged from 1.7 in Illinois to 7.6 in Wyoming,

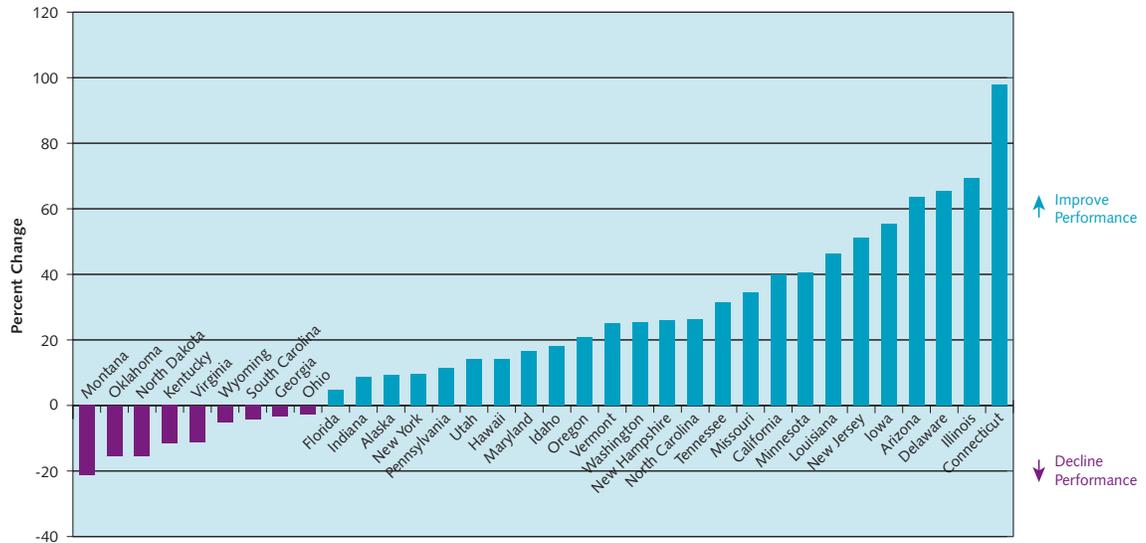


Figure III-11. Percent change from FY 2000 to FY 2003 in State performance on outcome measure 5.1: Percent of adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (N = 34)

with a median of 4.2. There were no substantive relationships (i.e., correlations of 0.40 or higher) between a State's foster care entry rate and performance on the permanency-related outcome measures.

Characteristics of the foster care population

Table III-4 presents information pertaining to the age of children at entry into foster care and the race/ethnicity of children in foster care in 2003. As shown in the table, the characteristics of foster care populations varied across States.

Table III-4: Characteristics of children in foster care in 2003

Child Characteristics	Percent range across States	Median percent across States
Age of Children at Entry into Foster Care		
Birth to age 5	22.2 – 57.8 %	40.6 %
Age 6 to 12	16.3 – 36.8	28.3
Age 13 to 15	10.8 – 36.7	19.6
Age 16 and older	3.4 – 33.0	9.7
Children's race/ethnicity		
Alaska Native/American Indian	0 – 63.7	0.5
Asian	0 – 14.3	0.3
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0 – 29.2	0.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	0.2 – 85.1	22.6
Hispanic (of any race)	0.7 – 99.1	5.8
White (non-Hispanic)	0.2 – 96.2	47.0
Multiple Races	0.2 – 36.3	2.5

The following are key findings regarding the relationships between the characteristics of the foster care population and State performance on the permanency-related outcome measures.

- States with a relatively high percentage of children entering foster care at age 5 or younger tended to have a relatively low percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (Pearson's $r = -0.46$).

- States with a relatively high percentage of children entering foster care at age 16 and older tended to have a relatively high percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (Pearson's $r = 0.52$).
- States with a relatively high percentage of Black (non-Hispanic) children entering foster care tended to have a relatively low percentage of adoptions within 24 months (Pearson's $r = -0.47$).

The analyses of the race/ethnicity data of children in foster care found that in 2003, the percentage of children who are Black (non-Hispanic), Hispanic, or Alaska Native/American Indian exceeded the percentage of those children in a State's child population in many States. In contrast, the percentage of children in foster care who are White (non-Hispanic) was less than the percentage of these children in the State population. Table III-5 presents these findings.

Table III-5: The relationship between the race/ethnicity of children in foster care in 2003 and the race/ethnicity of children in the State's child population in 2003 (N = 51 States)*

Relationship**	Race/Ethnicity of Children			
	Hispanic	White	Black	Alaska Native/American Indian
Number and percent of States in which the percent of children in foster care exceeded the percent of children in the State's child population	14 (27%)	0	50 (98%)	21 (41%)
Number and percent of States in which the percent of children in foster care was about equal to the percent of children in the State's child population.	23 (46%)	34 (67%)	1 (2%)	13 (26%)
Number and percent of States in which the percent of children in foster care was less than the percent of children in the State's population	14 (27%)	17 (33%)	0	17 (33%)
Total	51 (100%)	51 (100%)	51 (100%)	51 (100%)

*These data are not available for Puerto Rico.

** The following approach was used to determine the nature of the relationship: A determination of "exceeded" was made if the percent of children entering foster care of a particular race/ethnicity was at least 1.3 times the percent in the State's child population. A determination of "less than" was made if the percent of children entering foster care of a particular race/ethnicity was less than 0.7 times the percent in the State's child population.

In many States, the percentage of children of a particular race/ethnicity in foster care was considerably larger than the percentage of those children in the State's child population. Examples of this are provided below:

- The percent of Hispanic children in foster care was at least twice as large as the percent of Hispanic children in the State's child population in seven States (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, and South Dakota).
- The percent of Black children in foster care was at least three times larger than the percent of Black children in the State's child population in 22 States (California, Connecticut, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming).
- The percent of Black children in the foster care population was at least four times larger than the percent of Black children in the State child population in seven States (California, Iowa, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Utah, and Wisconsin).
- The percent of Alaska Native/American Indian children in foster care was at least three times larger than the percent of these children in the State's child population in 11 States (Alaska, Idaho, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, and Washington).
- The percent of Alaska Native/American Indian children in foster care was at least five times greater than the percent of these children in the State's child population in six States (Idaho, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Oregon, and Washington).

IV. Achieving Outcomes Related to Placement Stability and Appropriate Placements for Young Children in Foster Care

It is the responsibility of a State child welfare agency to ensure that children are in stable placements while they are in foster care. An additional agency responsibility is to ensure that children are in placements appropriate to their age. For many young children (i.e., age 12 years or younger), an appropriate placement is a family setting rather than a group home or institution. The Department established the following outcomes and measures to assess State performance with regard to meeting these responsibilities.

Outcome 6—Increase placement stability

Outcome measure 6.1—Of all children served during the reporting period who had been in foster care for the time periods listed below, what percentage had no more than two placement settings during that time period?

- (1) Less than 12 months from the time of latest removal from home
- (2) At least 12 months but less than 24 months
- (3) At least 24 months but less than 36 months
- (4) At least 36 months but less than 48 months
- (5) 48 or more months

Outcome 7—Reduce placements of young children in group homes or institutions

Outcome measure 7.1—Of all children who entered foster care during the reporting period and were age 12 or younger at the time of their most recent placement, what percentage was placed in a group home or institution?

The Department adopted a component of the measure of placement stability (outcome measure 6.1) for use in the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) and established a national performance standard for the measure. The standard is the following: Of all children who have been in foster care for less than 12 months from the time of the latest removal from home, *86.7 percent or more* have had no more than 2 placement settings.

Data reported in this chapter come from the Federal Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS). The chapter presents the findings with regard to the following:

- State performance in 2003 on the measures pertaining to outcome 6 and outcome 7.
- The change in State performance from 2000 to 2003 on these outcome measures.

This chapter does not include a section on the relationships between State performance on these measures and the characteristics of State foster care populations because no relationships were found.

STATE PERFORMANCE IN 2003 IN ACHIEVING OUTCOMES RELATED TO PLACEMENT STABILITY AND APPROPRIATE PLACEMENTS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Table IV-1 presents the findings of State performance on key measures of placement stability¹⁹ and placements of young children in group homes or institutions. As shown in the table, most children in foster care in 2003 for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings (outcome measure 6.1a). There were nine States in which at least 90 percent of the children in foster care for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings (Alabama, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Iowa, Maryland, New York, Puerto Rico, and Wisconsin).

¹⁹ For purposes of the Report to Congress measure, placement stability is defined as a child having no more than 2 placement settings while in foster care.

Table IV-1: State performance in 2003 on measures pertaining to outcome 6 (Increase placement stability) and outcome 7 (Reduce placements of young children in group homes or institutions)

Outcome Measures	Performance Variables		
	Range	Mean percent	Median percent
Measure 6.1a: Percent of children in foster care for less than 12 months who experience two or fewer placement settings (N=52 States)	52.3-99.7%	82.5%	84.2%
Measure 6.1b: Percent of children in foster care for at least 12 months but less than 24 months who experience two or fewer placement settings (N=52 States)	30.2-99.7	59.3	59.1
Measure 7.1: Percent of children entering foster care at age 12 or younger who are placed in group homes or institutions (N=49 States)*	1.4-28.8	10.1	8.3

*Three States were excluded because of data quality issues

However, the data in table IV-1 also indicate that the percentage of children experiencing no more than two placement settings is substantially different for children in foster care for less than 12 months (median = 84.2 percent) than it is for children in foster care for at least 12 months but less than 24 months (median = 59.1 percent). Figure IV-1 depicts this difference for individual States. As shown in the figure, in 10 States there is at least a 30 percentage point difference in placement stability between these groups (Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, New Mexico, Tennessee, Texas, and Utah).

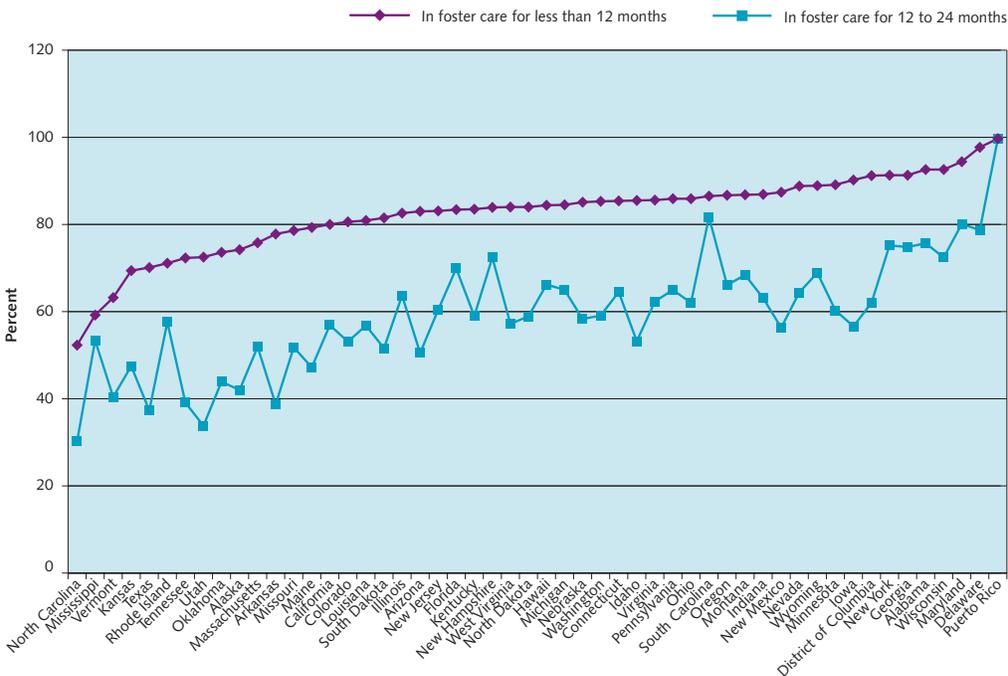


Figure IV-1. State performance in FY 2003 on outcome measure 6.1: Range in percent of children in foster care for less than 12 months and for 12 to 24 months who had no more than 2 placement settings (N = 52)

The range in State performance with regard to the placement of children in group homes or institutions is depicted in figure IV-2. At the low end, in 11 States, less than 5 percent of children age 12 and younger entering foster care in 2003 were placed in group homes or institutions (Alaska, Hawaii, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee, and Washington). At the high end, in six States, 20 percent or more of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in group homes or institutions (Arizona, District of Columbia, Iowa, Mississippi, South Carolina, and South Dakota).

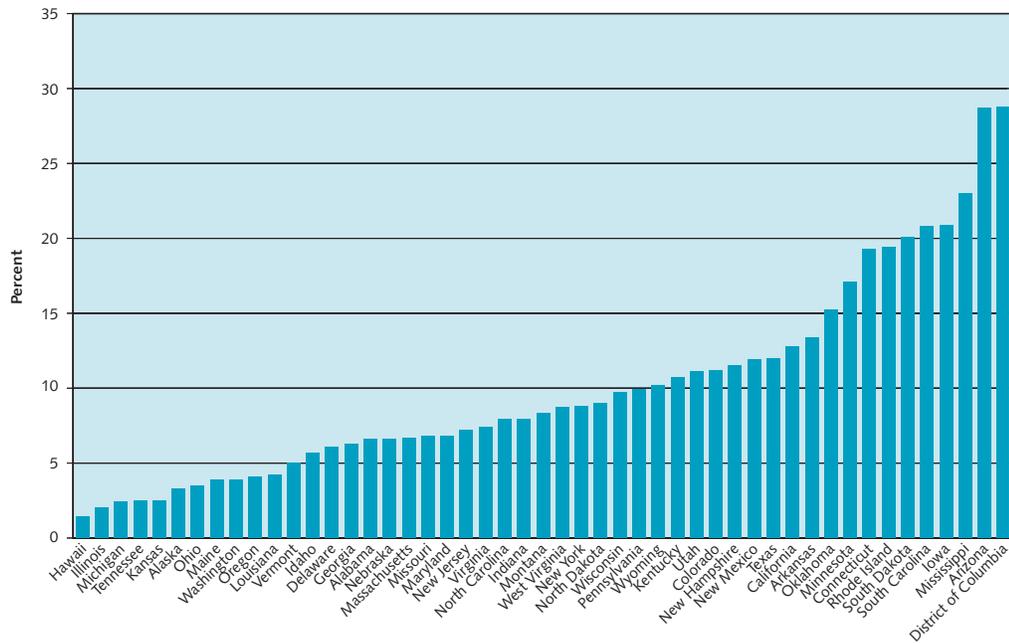


Figure IV-2. Range of State performance on outcome measure 7.1: Percent of children 12 and younger entering foster care in FY 2003 who were placed in a group home or institution (N = 49)

Performance on outcome measures of placement stability and placements of young children in group homes or institutions was not found to be related to performance on any of the other measures.

CHANGE IN STATE PERFORMANCE FROM 2000 TO 2003 IN PLACEMENT STABILITY AND APPROPRIATE PLACEMENTS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Table IV-2 provides the number and percent of States that improved performance, declined in performance, or exhibited no change in performance with regard to key measures for outcome 6 and outcome 7. A few States were excluded from the analyses either because of missing data or data quality issues associated with a particular measure in either 2000 or 2003. Because outcome 6 focuses on increasing placement stability, a positive percent change represents a performance improvement for the measure of placement stability for children in foster care for less than 12 months. In comparison, because outcome 7 focuses on reducing placements of young children in group homes or institutions, a positive percent change represents a performance decline for measure 7.1.

Table IV-2: Number and percent of States exhibiting improvement, decline, or no change in performance from 2000 to 2003 with regard to measures pertaining to placement stability (outcome measure 6.1) and appropriate placements of young children (outcome measure 7.1)

Outcome Measures	Change in Performance from 2000 to 2003		
	Improved performance (number and percent of States)	Declined performance (number and percent of States)	No change in performance (number and percent of States)
Measure 6.1: Percent of children in foster care for less than 12 months who experienced 2 or fewer placement settings (N=50 States)	7 (14%)	6 (12%)	37 (74%)
Measure 7.1: Percent of children entering foster care when they were 12 or younger who were placed in a group home or institution (N=49 States)	27 (55%)	18 (37%)	4 (8%)

As shown in the table, the majority of States did not change from 2000 to 2003 with regard to the percentage of children in foster care for less than 12 months who experienced no more than two placement settings. This is not surprising given that most States were already performing at a very high level on this measure in 2000.

With regard to the percentage of young children placed in group homes or institutions, 55 percent of the States exhibited improvement in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (outcome measure 7.1). Figure IV-3 depicts the percent change in performance on this measure for the 49 States included in the analysis. The figure excludes Florida, Nevada, and Puerto Rico.

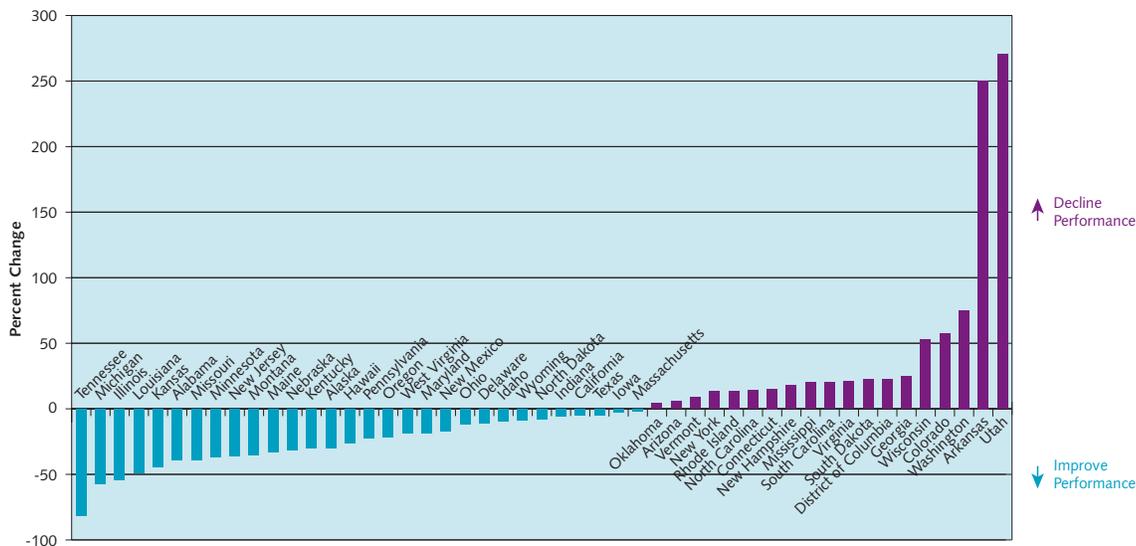


Figure IV-3. Percent change from FY 2000 to FY 2003 in State performance on outcome measure 7.1: Percent of children age 12 and younger placed in group homes or institutions (N=49)

As shown in the figure, there were three States in which improved performance from 2000 to 2003 exceeded a 50.0 percent change (Illinois, Michigan, and Tennessee). However, there were five States in which the performance decline from 2000 to 2003 exceeded a 50.0 percent change (Arkansas, Colorado, Utah, Washington, and Wisconsin).

V.

State Performance on the Seven National Child Welfare Outcomes

This chapter provides an overall summary of State performance and discussions of key findings reported in chapters II, III, and IV.

SUMMARY OF STATE PERFORMANCE IN 2000, 2001, 2002, AND 2003

Table V-1 provides the median across States regarding performance on selected outcome measures in 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003. The States included in the calculation of the median are those that provided acceptable data for a given outcome measure in all 4 years.²⁰ Changes in State performance were assessed by calculating the percent change from 2000 to 2003 of the median percent across States.

*Table V-1: Medians of State performance on key outcome measures in 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003**

Outcome measure and number of States included in the analysis	Year			
	2000 (median)	2001 (median)	2002 (median)	2003 (median)
1.1 Percent of children who were victims of substantiated or indicated child abuse and/or neglect during the first 6 months of reporting period who had another substantiated or indicated report within a 6-month period (N=34 States).	7.9%	7.5%	7.8%	7.7%
2.1 Percent of children in foster care who were the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member (N=27 States).	0.47	0.55	0.52	0.40
3.1 Percent of children exiting foster care who were discharged to a permanent home (adoption, legal guardianship, or reunification) (N=44 States).	85.7	85.4	86.4	86.7
3.2 Percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability who were discharged to a permanent home (adoption, guardianship, or reunification) (N= 37 States).	79.6	78.6	79.8	78.2
3.3 Percent of children exiting foster care who were older than 12 at the time of entry into foster care who were discharged to a permanent home (adoption, guardianship, or reunification) (N=40 States).	72.8	72.9	72.0	72.2
3.4 Percent of children exiting foster care to emancipation who were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care (N=50 States).	25.3	28.3	26.7	29.6
4.1 Percent of children reunified with their parents or caretakers at the time of discharge from foster care who were reunified within 12 months from the time of entry into foster care (N=43 States).	71.5	71.9	68.3	72.1
4.2 Percent of children entering foster care who were re-entering care within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode (N= 46 States).	10.6	11.2	10.8	9.8
5.1 Percent of children exiting foster care to a finalized adoption who exited within 24 months from the time of the latest removal from home (N=34 States).	19.7	20.3	21.9	22.9
6.1 Percent of children in foster care for less than 12 months who experienced two or fewer placements (N=51 States).	84.2	83.3	84.3	84.0
7.1 Percent of children age 12 or younger at the time of their most recent placement who were placed in a group home or institution (N= 49 States).	9.6	8.6	8.6	8.3

²⁰ Because this table includes only States that provided acceptable data for each measure in all 4 years, the medians reported in this table for State performance in 2003 may be slightly different than those reported in earlier chapters. For example, as shown in table II-1 in chapter II, in 2003, 45 States provided data for outcome measure 1.1. The median across these States was 7.1 percent. Because only 34 States provided data for this measure in all 4 years, in table V-1 above, the median is 7.7.

As shown in the table, there is evidence of performance improvement from 2000 to 2003 with regard to several measures. The following are the findings pertaining to improved performance.

- The median percentage of children in foster care who were maltreated by a foster parent or facility staff member (outcome measure 2.1) decreased from 2000 to 2003 (-14.8 percent change).
- The median percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (outcome measure 4.2) decreased from 2000 to 2003 (-7.5 percent change).
- The median percentage of adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (outcome measure 5.1) increased from 2000 to 2003 (+16.2 percent change).
- The median percentage of children age 12 and younger who were placed in group homes or institutions (outcome measure 7.1) decreased from 2000 to 2003 (-13.5 percent change).

The only measure that exhibited a performance decline from 2000 to 2003 was measure 3.4. For this measure, the median percentage of children emancipated from foster care who were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care increased from 2000 to 2003 (+17.0 percent change). Performance on the remaining outcome measures did not change from 2000 to 2003 (i.e., the percent change did not exceed 5.0 in either direction).

The sections below discuss State performance on the national child welfare outcomes and measures with regard to keeping children safe, achieving permanency for children, and providing stable and age-appropriate placements.

KEY FINDINGS REGARDING KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE

Outcome 1 (Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect) and outcome 2 (Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care) pertain to State performance with regard to keeping children safe. State performance on these outcomes is summarized and discussed below.

Outcome 1—Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

Outcome 1 reflects the primary responsibility of State child welfare agencies to protect children who have been found to be victims of abuse or neglect from further harm. The measure developed to assess State performance on this outcome is the following: Of all children who were victims of substantiated or indicated child abuse and/or neglect during the first 6 months of the reporting period, what percentage had another substantiated or indicated report within a 6-month period?

The findings regarding performance on this outcome measure suggest that, in 2003, protecting child maltreatment victims from further harm was a challenge for many States. In 35 of the 45 States reporting data for the measure, at least five percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the reporting year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period. Also, as noted in chapter II, for some States, the incidence of maltreatment reported to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) Child File may be less than the actual incidence. This is due to the fact that child protective services agencies in these States often do not formally investigate maltreatment allegations involving children in open child protective services case, and therefore they do not report these allegations to the NCANDS Child File.

Despite the continued challenge of preventing maltreatment recurrence, 53 percent of the States achieved outcome 1 because the incidence of maltreatment recurrence declined between 2000 and 2003. For some States this decline was extensive. However, for 29 percent of the States, the incidence of child maltreatment recurrence increased from 2000 to 2003, and for some of these States, the increase was considerable.

The findings indicate that in 2003, State performance on the measure of maltreatment recurrence was not related to the age or race/ethnicity of child victims, but was related to the types of maltreatment experienced by child victims. In 2003, States with a relatively high percentage of children who were victims of sexual

abuse tended to have a relatively low incidence of maltreatment recurrence within a 6-month period (Pearson's $r = -0.40$). In comparison, States with a relatively high percentage of children who were victims of neglect in 2003 tended to have a relatively high incidence of maltreatment recurrence within a 6-month period (Pearson's $r = 0.40$).

Although additional information is necessary for a detailed interpretation of these findings, one possible explanation may be found in the different responses that typically occur to substantiated sexual abuse and neglect allegations. A substantiated allegation of sexual abuse, for example, often involves legal action against the perpetrator and legal action to ensure that the perpetrator does not have contact with the child, which may include placement of the child in foster care. These efforts may be effective in preventing the recurrence of sexual abuse within a 6-month period. In contrast, a child welfare agency response to a substantiated allegation of neglect usually does not involve legal action against the perpetrator and usually does not prohibit contact between the child and the perpetrator. Consequently, there may be a greater opportunity for neglect to recur within a 6-month period.

Understanding differences among States in performance on the measure of maltreatment recurrence requires consideration of the potential effect on performance of State definitions of child abuse and neglect and State laws governing evidentiary requirements for substantiation. For example, in some States, the statutory definition of child maltreatment does not include psychological or emotional abuse; in other States, this type of abuse is part of the definition of child maltreatment. In one State (Pennsylvania), the definition of child maltreatment does not include neglect, unless it is "severe neglect."

Also, in some States, substantiation of a maltreatment allegation requires evidence "beyond a reasonable doubt." In other States substantiation requires a "preponderance of evidence." Elsewhere, an allegation can be substantiated if there is "reasonable suspicion" that the maltreatment occurred or an allegation can be substantiated if the risk of maltreatment is confirmed. These differences affect both the number of children who are found to be victims of maltreatment in a State and the incidence of maltreatment recurrence. A key finding reported in chapter II relevant to this issue is that, in 2003, States with a relatively high rate of child victims (i.e., the number of child victims per 1,000 children in the population) tended to have a relatively high incidence of maltreatment recurrence within a 6-month period (Pearson's $r = 0.63$).

Outcome 2—Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

Outcome 2 reflects the obligation of a State child welfare system to ensure that children who are removed from their homes by the State do not experience maltreatment by their State-appointed caretakers. The measure developed to assess State performance on this outcome is the following: Of all children who were in foster care during the reporting period, what percentage was the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member?

The findings pertaining to performance on this outcome measure in 2003 indicate that States are reasonably effective in keeping most children in foster care safe from maltreatment by foster parents or a facility staff member. For many States, less than 0.20 percent of children in foster care were maltreated by foster parents or facility staff members in 2003. However, in all States, there were some children who were victims of maltreatment by their State-appointed caretakers, which suggests that there is an ongoing need for improvement in this area.

The findings also indicate that in the majority of States included in the analysis of performance on this measure (73 percent), there was a reduction between 2000 and 2003 in the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect by a foster parent or facility staff member. Only 19 percent of the States exhibited a decline in performance on this measure over that time period.

State performance on the measure of maltreatment of children in foster care was not found to be related to the age of child victims, their race/ethnicity, or the type of maltreatment they experienced.

ACHIEVING PERMANENCY FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

Outcome 3 (Increase permanency for children in foster care), outcome 4 (Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry), and outcome 5 (Reduce time in foster care to adoption) were established to assess State performance with regard to achieving permanency for children in foster care. State performance on these outcomes is summarized and discussed below.

Outcome 3—Increase permanency for children in foster care

Outcome 3 reflects the responsibility of State child welfare agencies to ensure that foster care is a temporary situation for children and that when children leave foster care they are discharged to a permanent home. A child in foster care is determined to have achieved permanency when any of the following occurs: (1) the child is discharged from foster care to a reunification with his or her family, either a parent or other relative; (2) the child is discharged from foster care to a legally finalized adoption; or (3) the child is discharged from foster care to the care of a legal guardian.

The measures developed to assess State performance on this outcome emphasize the importance of achieving permanency for all children regardless of their characteristics. Consequently, the measures developed for outcome 3 pertain not only to achieving permanency for all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1), but also to achieving permanency for children with a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2), children who are adolescents when they enter foster care (outcome measure 3.3), and children of all races/ethnicities (measure 3.5). Another measure pertaining to outcome 3 (measure 3.4) is intended to capture the percent of children who “grow up” in foster care and are discharged without having found a permanent home.

The findings presented in chapter III indicate that most children exiting foster care in 2003 were discharged to a permanent home. However, in the majority of States, children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability or who were older than age 12 when they entered care were less likely to be discharged to a permanent home than were all children exiting foster care. These findings suggest that, in many States, achieving permanency for all children in foster care remains a challenge.

An additional finding is that in 2003, in the majority of States, the percentages of children exiting foster care who were discharged to a permanent home did not vary as a function of children’s race or ethnicity. In these States, Black (non-Hispanic) children, Hispanic children, Alaskan Native/American Indian children, and White (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care were about equally likely to be discharged to a permanent home.²¹

The findings reported in chapter III also demonstrate that, in 2003, there were a substantial number of children in some States who entered foster care when they were younger than age 12 and eventually emancipated from foster care, having never found a permanent home. In fact, in 10 States, more than 40 percent of the children emancipated from foster care in 2003 were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care.

Most States did not achieve outcome 3 in that they did not increase permanency for children in foster care from 2000 to 2003. This finding is not surprising for outcome measure 3.1 (the percent of all children exiting foster care who were discharged to a permanent home) because most States were already performing at a very high level on this measure in 2000. Of concern, however, are the findings that: (1) 41 percent of the States exhibited a decline in performance from 2000 to 2003 with regard to achieving permanency for children with a diagnosed disability and, (2) 51 percent of the States exhibited a decline in performance with regard to the percent of children emancipated from foster care who were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care.

²¹ This applies only to those States in which at a particular racial/ethnic category accounted for at least 10 percent of the children exiting foster care.

Outcome 4—Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

Outcome 4 reflects the emphasis of the Department and the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) on reunifying children in a timely manner. The findings reported in chapter III indicate that, in many States, the majority of children reunified in 2003 were in foster care for less than 12 months at the time of reunification. However, the median of 72.0 percent across States suggests that for about one-half of the States, there is a need for improvement with regard to timely reunifications. In particular, in five States, less than 50 percent of reunifications occurred within 12 months of the child's entry into foster care.

Outcome 4 also addresses the Department's emphasis that reunifications must occur in a manner that promotes the "permanency" of the reunification and prevents children from re-entering foster care. The findings reported in chapter III raise concerns about the permanency of reunifications occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care. One key finding is that 50 percent of the States exhibiting an increase from 2000 to 2003 in the percentage of reunifications occurring within 12 months of entry into foster care (outcome measure 4.1) also exhibited an increase in the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (outcome measure 4.2). Only four States exhibited improved performance on both measures (Arizona, Illinois, Tennessee, and Vermont). Another key finding is that in 2003, States with a relatively high percentage of reunifications occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care also tended to have a relatively high percentage of entries into foster care of children re-entering within 12 months of a prior foster care episode (Pearson's $r = 0.49$). Taken together, these findings suggest that some children are being reunified before sufficient changes have occurred in the family or the child to prevent another removal episode and/or that insufficient post-reunification services were provided to assist families in the reintegration process.

The findings reported in chapter III also indicate that the relationship between reunification and re-entry reported in the prior paragraph may be particularly relevant for children who enter foster care as older adolescents. In general, States with a relatively high percentage of children entering foster care who were age 16 or older tended to have a relatively high percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (Pearson's $r = 0.52$). Almost all of the States with a high percentage of children age 16 and older entering foster care are States in which children can enter foster care through the juvenile justice system or through the courts as "children in need of supervision." Because these children do not enter foster care as victims of maltreatment, and therefore are viewed as not having safety concerns, child welfare agencies may experience challenges in meeting their treatment needs. This finding suggests that States experiencing relatively high percentages of children re-entering foster care within 12 months of a prior episode should examine their data to identify the ages of the children who are re-entering in order to determine how to best address the problem.

Outcome 5—Reduce time in foster care to adoption

Outcome 5 is intended to emphasize the responsibility of child welfare agencies to find adoptive families for children who cannot be returned to their families and to finalize the adoption process as quickly as possible. For most States, the percent of adoptions in 2003 that were finalized within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was not high (median = 23.9 percent), and in some States it was quite low. However, 70 percent of States exhibited improved performance on this measure, suggesting that States are making concerted efforts to expedite the adoption process for children.

One finding reported in chapter III is somewhat difficult to interpret. In 2003, States with a relatively high percentage of Black (non-Hispanic) children in their foster care populations tended to have a relatively low percentage of adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (Pearson's $r = -0.47$). Although it is possible to provide some speculations on the reasons why this relationship may occur, additional information is needed to explore the nature of this relationship.

ACHIEVING STABLE PLACEMENTS AND APPROPRIATE PLACEMENTS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Outcome 6—Increase placement stability

This outcome reflects the Department’s belief that State child welfare agencies are responsible for ensuring that children who are removed from their homes are placed in settings that are stable. Placement stability is defined as “two or fewer placement settings.”

States are generally effective in achieving placement stability for children in foster care for less than 12 months. The median performance in 2003 on this measure was 84.2 percent. Performance on this measure did not change from 2000 to 2003 for 74 percent of the States, primarily because most States were already at a high level of performance in 2000.

In contrast, States are far less effective in achieving placement stability for children in foster care for at least 12 months but less than 24 months. The median performance in 2003 on this measure was only 59.1 percent. In 10 States, placement stability declined by 30 percent or more for children in foster care from 12 to 24 months compared to children in foster care for less than 12 months. Additional research is needed to identify the factors associated with this decline in placement stability to help support States in achieving placement stability for children, regardless of how long they are in foster care.

Outcome 7—Reduce placements of young children in group homes or institutions

In the majority of States, a fairly small percentage of young children are placed in group homes or institutions. Fifty-five percent of the States achieved outcome 7 in that they reduced placements of young children in group homes or institutions. However, for a few States, there is an ongoing need for improvement in this area. In six States, for example, 20 percent or more of the children age 12 and younger who entered foster care in 2003 were placed in group homes or institutions. In addition, 37 percent of the States exhibited a decline in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003.

SUMMARY

Overall, State performance with regard to keeping children safe generally improved from 2000 to 2003, particularly with regard to maltreatment of children in foster care. However, more efforts are needed to ensure that child victims do not experience additional maltreatment, whether they are in their own homes, in the home of a foster family, or in a group home or institution. The findings suggest that our understanding of State performance with regard to keeping children safe would be enhanced by research pertaining to the following:

- How definitions of child maltreatment and statutory requirements pertaining to substantiation affect the reported incidence of maltreatment recurrence within a 6-month period.
- Why the percentage of child victims who experience neglect appears to be positively related to the incidence of child maltreatment recurrence.
- Why the percentage of child victims who experience sexual abuse appears to be negatively related to the incidence of child maltreatment recurrence.

State performance with regard to achieving permanency for children varied. The strongest area of improvement from 2000 to 2003 pertained to adoptions within 24 months of a child’s entry into foster care. Although the percentage of adoptions that are finalized within this time period continues to be somewhat low (median = 23.9 percent), 70 percent of the States exhibited improved performance on this measure.

Many States (33 percent) also improved with respect to achieving reunifications within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care. However, there is some indication that expediting reunifications may be related to increased re-entry, particularly for children who enter foster care as older adolescents. This suggests that States with high rates of re-entry into foster care with 12 months of a prior episode should examine the ages of those children who are re-entering in order to better understand how to respond to the problem.

States also continued to experience challenges in 2003 in achieving permanency for children who enter foster care as adolescents (i.e., older than age 12). In the majority of States, the percentage of these children exiting foster care who were discharged to a permanent home was substantially lower than the percentage of all children exiting foster care who were discharged to a permanent home. Finally, in many States, more than one-third of the children emancipated from foster care had entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger, and the overall median for this measure was close to 30 percent.

Additional information in the following areas would enhance understanding of State performance with regard to achieving permanency for children in foster care and help identify strategies for improving performance in this area:

- How State differences with regard to policies and practices governing reunification and adoption affect performance on the outcome measures.
- The factors associated with very long-term stays in foster care.
- The reasons for entry into foster care for children age 13 and older and the factors associated with attaining permanency for these children.
- Why a high percentage of older adolescents entering foster care is associated with a high percentage of re-entry into foster care.
- The nature of the relationship between reunifications within 12 months and re-entries within 12 months in individual States.

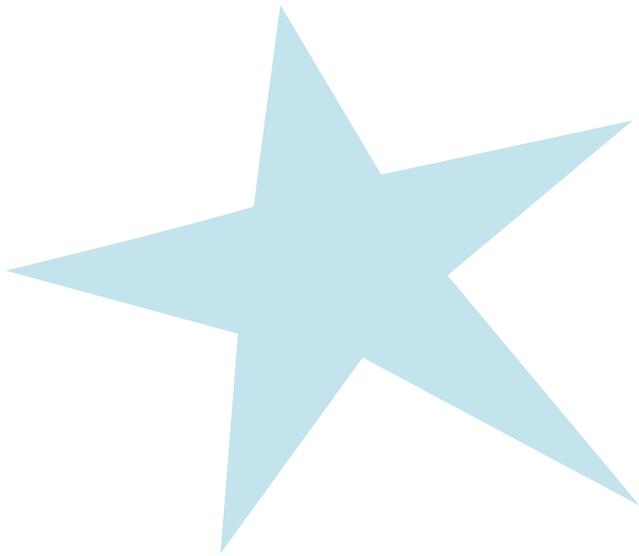
The findings regarding State performance pertaining to placement stability raise serious concerns about children in foster care for 12 months or longer. Although most children in foster care for less than 12 months generally experience two or fewer placement settings, this is not true for children in foster care for at least 12 months but less than 24 months. Additional research is needed to understand why this decline in placement stability occurs. This information would assist in identifying strategies for increasing placement stability for all children.

For most States, the majority of young children entering foster care are placed in family settings rather than in group homes or institutions. However, there are a few States where this is an area needing ongoing improvement.

The findings reported in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2003: Annual Report to Congress* suggest that for the most part States are exhibiting improvements in achieving positive outcomes for children who come into contact with public child welfare systems. However, there continue to be many areas in which additional improvements are needed and some in which State performance is declining. As States complete their program improvement plans resulting from the first round of Child and Family Services Reviews, the Department will be able to gather more specific information to identify the direction of change and the strategies associated with positive change.

VI.

STATE DATA PAGES



A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	1,121,425	1,111,351	1,110,914	1,107,973
Race/Ethnicity (%)¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4
Asian	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Black (non-Hispanic)	31.8	31.8	31.4	31.4
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	2.2	2.4	2.4	2.5
White (non-Hispanic)	63.3	63.3	63.9	63.7
Two or more races	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2
% Child population in poverty	20.6	23.2	19.1	22.3

Child Welfare Summary

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	9,990	9,229	9,903	9,290
Children in foster care on 9/30	5,621	5,859	5,883	6,079
Children adopted	202	238	249	329

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information

	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	32,655	29.1 per 1,000	29,911	26.9 per 1,000	32,682	29.4 per 1,000	29,679	26.8 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	9,990	8.9 per 1,000	9,229	8.3 per 1,000	9,903	8.9 per 1,000	9,290	8.4 per 1,000
Child fatalities	27	2.4 per 100,000	24	2.2 per 100,000	29	2.6 per 100,000	22	2.0 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	8.6	8.5	7.5	7.4
1-5 years	27.4	28.0	26.4	27.0
6-10 years	27.9	27.7	25.4	24.1
11-15 years	28.9	28.2	28.3	29.8
16+ years	5.2	5.0	5.7	5.6
Unknown	1.9	2.6	6.6	6.2
Number	9,990	9,229	9,903	9,290

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁵

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	3.7	3.4	2.3	1.3
Medical neglect	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Neglect	43.8	44.5	42.0	39.6
Physical abuse	40.4	44.4	45.6	38.6
Sexual abuse	26.5	21.1	23.8	24.7
Unknown/missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	9,990	9,229	9,903	9,290

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)⁴

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Asian	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	38.5	33.5	30.3	29.9
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	0.9	1.3	2.1	2.2
White (non-Hispanic)	59.7	62.5	54.5	48.9
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	0.6	2.3	12.7	16.1
Number	9,990	9,229	9,903	9,290

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	5,294	5,458	5,450	5,651	2,661	2,672	3,125	3,246	2,334	2,271	2,692	2,818	5,621	5,859	5,883	6,079
Median length of stay (months)	21.8	21.8	20.8	19.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	11.1	12.4	11.1	11.1	22.0	21.5	19.1	18.3

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	3.8	4.1	3.7	3.7	15.4	15.4	14.9	13.3	5.7	5.3	6.2	5.4	4.3	3.9	4.1	3.9
1 year	5.2	4.9	4.7	5.0	6.6	6.0	6.7	6.2	5.9	6.0	6.4	6.5	4.8	5.1	4.8	4.4
2 years	4.6	4.7	4.3	4.6	4.8	5.7	6.0	5.5	5.1	6.5	6.9	6.5	5.0	4.5	4.6	4.6
3 years	4.7	4.3	4.5	4.0	4.7	5.0	4.6	5.7	5.1	5.4	6.2	6.2	4.5	4.6	3.9	4.3
4 years	4.5	4.3	4.5	4.0	4.0	5.6	4.9	5.1	5.2	5.6	5.8	5.0	4.4	4.6	4.0	4.3
5 years	4.4	4.0	3.9	3.6	4.1	4.5	4.0	4.0	4.4	4.4	4.8	5.1	4.1	4.2	3.9	3.4
6 years	4.5	4.2	4.1	4.0	3.9	4.3	4.2	4.8	3.8	4.1	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.3	3.8	4.0
7 years	4.7	4.4	4.2	4.2	4.9	4.0	4.4	4.2	5.1	3.4	4.2	4.1	4.4	4.4	4.2	3.8
8 years	4.6	4.9	4.5	4.0	4.7	4.0	5.1	3.9	4.3	3.8	5.1	4.4	4.8	4.5	4.0	4.0
9 years	5.5	4.8	4.6	4.9	4.5	4.4	4.8	3.9	4.3	4.1	4.4	4.1	4.9	4.6	5.0	4.0
10 years	5.3	5.6	5.3	4.7	4.7	4.9	4.5	3.9	4.5	4.5	3.9	4.2	5.6	5.2	4.7	4.6
11 years	5.0	5.6	5.6	5.2	5.4	4.4	3.9	4.8	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.9	5.7	5.5	5.2	4.8
12 years	5.3	5.8	5.8	5.9	5.2	4.7	4.9	5.5	3.5	4.1	3.9	3.8	5.6	5.7	5.8	5.8
13 years	5.8	6.0	6.2	6.4	5.3	5.0	5.5	6.0	4.2	4.4	3.7	4.2	5.8	6.0	6.4	6.7
14 years	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.9	7.5	6.6	6.6	5.9	5.9	4.8	4.4	4.2	6.5	6.3	7.0	7.0
15 years	7.1	7.5	7.4	7.2	6.1	7.0	6.4	6.7	6.1	5.9	6.4	5.4	7.3	7.4	7.2	7.6
16 years	7.0	6.5	7.7	7.4	5.0	4.9	5.4	6.0	6.1	5.3	5.2	5.5	6.5	7.3	7.3	7.7
17 years	5.8	6.1	6.3	7.3	2.7	3.3	2.8	4.0	5.0	5.8	4.0	5.5	6.0	6.0	7.1	7.1
18 years	3.4	3.7	3.8	4.2	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	5.8	6.8	5.4	5.7	3.6	3.6	4.1	4.9
19 years	1.5	1.4	1.6	1.9	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	3.5	3.9	2.8	3.4	1.4	1.5	1.9	2.1
20 years	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.9	0.7	0.7	0.8	1.0
Missing data	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	1.1	0.8	0.7	0.7	<.1	<.1	0.1	<.1

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	<.1	0.1	<.1	0.2	0.1	<.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2
Asian	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	55.9	54.5	51.6	51.0	46.1	42.6	41.3	41.9	47.7	48.7	42.6	42.9	54.6	51.3	50.3	49.9
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	0.7	0.9	0.9	1.2	1.5	0.9	1.5	2.6	1.0	0.5	1.2	2.2	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.5
White (non-Hispanic)	42.9	43.7	46.4	46.8	51.2	55.6	56.3	54.5	50.8	50.1	55.2	54.0	43.6	46.7	47.7	47.6
Two or more races	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6
Unknown	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	1,162	1,288	1,525	1,608
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	652	839	948	927

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	2.8	2.1	3.6	3.5
1 year	3.6	4.0	5.1	4.1
2 years	6.0	5.0	5.5	6.1
3 years	5.2	5.4	4.9	4.8
4 years	6.0	5.3	4.8	5.2
5 years	7.0	5.5	6.4	5.3
6 years	5.8	6.1	5.0	5.8
7 years	7.6	6.2	5.9	4.9
8 years	6.9	6.5	6.2	5.9
9 years	6.1	6.8	6.6	5.7
10 years	8.8	7.3	6.3	6.3
11 years	6.5	8.2	7.1	6.0
12 years	6.0	7.1	7.3	7.0
13 years	5.1	6.1	5.9	7.8
14 years	4.6	4.7	5.6	5.6
15 years	3.7	4.4	3.9	5.1
16 years	2.5	3.4	3.7	3.7
17 years	2.2	2.4	2.8	3.3
18 years	2.0	1.7	1.6	2.2
19 years	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1
20+ years	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.6
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	<.1	<.1	<.1
Asian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	53.6	51.6	49.5	48.7
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	0.7	1.2	1.1	1.1
White (non-Hispanic)	45.0	45.7	48.5	49.0
Two or more races	0.3	1.0	0.5	0.6
Unknown	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	202	238	249	329

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	2.5	2.5	0.8	1.2
1 year	4.5	6.3	5.6	8.2
2 years	7.4	8.4	10.4	9.7
3 years	12.4	11.8	12.9	12.5
4 years	12.9	10.9	12.4	8.5
5 years	11.4	9.2	6.4	5.5
6 years	8.9	7.6	8.4	8.8
7 years	5.4	9.2	4.4	7.3
8 years	5.4	5.0	6.0	8.5
9 years	7.9	5.9	8.0	5.5
10 years	5.4	5.5	6.0	5.5
11 years	4.0	5.5	6.8	3.6
12 years	4.5	6.3	2.8	4.9
13 years	2.5	2.5	2.0	3.0
14 years	2.5	1.3	1.6	2.7
15 years	0.0	0.8	2.0	1.8
16 years	0.5	0.4	1.2	1.5
17 years	0.5	0.4	1.6	0.9
18 years	1.0	0.4	0.4	0.3
19 years	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	40.6	42.4	40.6	45.6
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	1.0	0.0	0.4	1.5
White (non-Hispanic)	57.9	55.5	56.2	51.4
Two or more races	0.5	1.3	2.4	1.5
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—	—
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	6.2	8.0	9.2	11.7
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	77.7	75.0	77.1	75.7
Other	9.0	9.5	8.2	12.1
Missing data	7.2	7.5	5.5	0.6
Number	2,334	2,271	2,692	2,818

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	12.4	8.4	13.0	14.8
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	53.2	62.3	53.0	59.6
Other	25.3	19.9	24.7	24.8
Missing data	9.1	9.4	9.3	0.7
Number	186	191	215	270

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.3
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	72.8	71.6	72.2	75.1
Other	14.7	16.2	16.7	23.5
Missing data	12.4	12.0	10.8	1.2
Number	651	623	665	758

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	61.2	60.0	52.2	47.5
Children older than 12 at entry	38.8	39.1	47.8	52.5
Missing data	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0
Number	103	110	115	177

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/American Indian				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.0	6.0	8.8	12.4
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	50.0	0.0	75.7	73.8	73.6	71.5
Other	66.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	10.8	11.1	10.9	15.1
Missing data	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.5	9.1	6.6	0.9
Number	3	2	3	3	0	1	2	0	1,113	1,107	1,146	1,208

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.7	0.0	3.1	7.9	6.3	9.7	9.3	11.1
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	87.0	83.3	62.5	77.8	79.4	76.3	80.3	79.1
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.3	0.0	31.3	14.3	7.3	8.1	5.8	9.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	3.1	0.0	7.0	6.0	4.6	0.3
Number	0	0	0	0	23	12	32	63	1,185	1,137	1,487	1,523

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	12.5	0.0	20.0	37.5	42.9	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	100.0	100.0	75.0	50.0	80.0	62.5	57.1	60.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	12.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	5	4	8	6	5	8	14	15	0	0	0	0

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	61.7	57.7	61.4	64.4
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	20.0	22.7	20.9	20.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	7.4	8.4	7.5	6.8
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	3.6	4.7	3.8	3.5
48 or more mos.	7.3	6.6	6.4	5.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Number	1,813	1,704	2,076	2,132

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	81.8	78.6	82.3	81.8
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	7.9	8.8	8.6	8.7
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	10.0	12.2	9.0	9.1
Missing data	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.4
Number	2,661	2,672	3,125	3,246

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	4.8	2.2	2.4	1.8
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	8.3	11.6	11.3	13.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	22.8	21.5	24.3	21.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	25.5	21.5	17.4	21.6
48 or more mos.	38.6	43.1	44.5	41.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	145	181	247	329

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	96.4	96.4	92.2	92.6	84.2	83.5	79.8	75.7	57.8	56.9	53.5	51.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	3.6	3.6	7.8	7.4	15.8	16.5	20.2	24.3	42.2	43.1	46.5	48.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	3,064	3,096	3,617	3,726	1,557	1,552	1,589	1,787	3,327	3,481	3,365	3,369	7	1	4	15

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	4.0	3.3	3.2	2.3
Institutions	6.8	4.7	4.3	4.2
Other settings	88.4	91.5	92.4	92.5
Missing data	0.8	0.5	0.1	0.9
Number	1,907	1,901	1,731	1,707

Alabama

[STATE COMMENT]

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of Alabama's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on changes in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

Alabama's performance with regard to achieving outcome 1 cannot be assessed because the State does not provide data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) for calculating the measure for this outcome (measure 1.1). To ensure consistency across States, the Report to Congress provides only data submitted through NCANDS.

The State provided data to NCANDS to calculate the number of child victims in the State (9,290). The child victim rate was 8.4 child victims per 1,000 children in the population, which is lower than the national median of 10.6 child victims per 1,000 children in the population.

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

Alabama's performance with regard to achieving outcome 2 cannot be assessed because the State does not provide data to NCANDS for calculating the measure for this outcome (measure 2.1). To ensure consistency across States, the Report to Congress only presents data submitted through NCANDS.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

Alabama's effectiveness in achieving outcome 3 varied depending on the measure being assessed. In 2003, 87.4 percent of children exiting foster care were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.1), which is slightly higher than the national median of 86.3 percent. Also in 2003, 75.4 percent of the children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.3), which is slightly higher than the national median of 72.2 percent. In comparison, 74.4 percent of the children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability were discharged to a permanent home, which is less than the national median of 79.5 percent. However, performance improved on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (+13.4 percent change).

In 2003, 47.5 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4). Although this percentage is one of the highest in the nation (and far exceeds the median of 29.6), performance on this measure improved from 2000 to 2003 (-22.4 percent change).

The data for measure 3.5 indicate some differences with regard to discharges to permanency for children of different races or ethnicities. (This was assessed only when a particular race or ethnicity accounted for at least 10 percent of the exits from foster care.) In 2003, Black (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care were less likely to be discharged to a permanent home (83.9 percent) than were White (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care (90.2 percent). An additional finding is that the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the foster care population in 2003 (49.9 percent) exceeded the percent of Black children in the State's child population (31.4 percent).

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, 64.4 percent of reunifications occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1), which is less than the national median of 72.0 percent. Performance with regard to this measure did not change from 2000 to 2003. In addition, 8.5 percent of reunifications occurred after the child had been in foster care for at least 36 months, which is more than twice the national median of 3.5 percent for this measure.

With regard to re-entries into foster care, in 2003, 8.7 percent of the children entering foster care were re-entering within 12 months of a prior foster care episode (measure 4.2), which is less than the national median of 9.5 percent. However, performance on this measure declined from 2000 to 2003 (+10.1).

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2003, only 15.2 percent of finalized adoptions in Alabama occurred within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 5.1), which is less than the national median of 23.9 percent. However, performance with regard to this measure improved from 2000 to 2003 (+16.0 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, 92.6 percent of the children in foster care in Alabama for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings, which exceeds the national median of 84.2 percent (measure 6.1). In addition, 75.7 percent of children in foster care for at least 12 months but less than 24 months experienced no more than two placement settings, which exceeds the national median of 59.1 percent for this measure.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, only 6.5 percent of the children entering foster care in Alabama who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percent not only is less than the national median of 8.3 percent, but also represented an improvement in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (-39.8 percent change).

Alaska [CONTEXT DATA]

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	190,311	189,610	189,824	189,289
Race/Ethnicity (%) ¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	19.4	19.7	19.7	19.8
Asian	4.1	3.9	3.5	3.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	3.6	4.0	3.8	3.8
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.7	0.7	0.6
Hispanic (of any race)	5.4	5.5	5.6	5.9
White (non-Hispanic)	58.8	59.5	63.9	63.7
Two or more races	8.4	6.8	7.7	7.7
% Child population in poverty	10.6	12.5	11.3	11.2

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	6,957	15,947	7,950	7,996
Children in foster care on 9/30	2,193	1,993	2,072	2,040
Children adopted	202	278	230	208

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	8,431	44.3 per 1,000	18,422	97.2 per 1,000	10,002	52.7 per 1,000	10,575	55.9 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	6,957	36.6 per 1,000	15,947	84.1 per 1,000	7,950	41.9 per 1,000	7,996	42.2 per 1,000
Child fatalities	8	4.2 per 100,000	4	2.1 per 100,000	1	0.5 per 100,000	2	1.1 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	7.8	7.3	8.0	8.0
1-5 years	30.9	31.9	31.7	32.2
6-10 years	32.1	32.3	30.1	29.6
11-15 years	24.4	24.4	25.6	25.8
16+ years	4.8	4.1	4.6	4.4
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	6,957	15,947	7,950	7,996

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	45.2	46.7	48.0	46.8
Asian	3.2	3.3	2.4	0.8
Black (non-Hispanic)	6.4	7.5	5.9	6.0
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.6
Hispanic (of any race)	2.4	2.9	2.0	2.4
White (non-Hispanic)	36.9	34.9	38.0	37.5
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	5.8	4.7	3.7	5.0
Number	6,957	15,947	7,950	7,996

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	13.5	9.9	8.7	11.3
Medical neglect	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Neglect	60.5	58.5	62.3	59.8
Physical abuse	26.6	22.1	21.1	21.8
Sexual abuse	12.1	9.4	7.9	7.2
Unknown/missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Number	6,957	15,947	7,950	7,996

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	2,010	1,990	1,848	1,878	1,096	999	1,068	943	913	996	844	781	2,193	1,993	2,072	2,040
Median length of stay (months)	15.0	17.4	17.7	17.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	14.3	16.9	19.1	14.5	16.7	17.8	16.5	17.5

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	4.9	4.0	3.7	4.8	14.7	14.1	15.3	14.4	3.0	3.9	3.2	3.6	4.0	3.5	4.7	4.1
1 year	6.7	7.0	7.2	5.3	7.5	9.7	6.7	8.5	6.1	6.6	7.6	6.7	7.0	6.9	5.3	6.7
2 years	6.3	6.3	6.4	7.2	7.0	7.1	7.2	6.5	7.3	7.6	6.5	9.1	6.6	6.6	7.5	5.4
3 years	5.4	6.2	6.5	6.2	5.7	8.0	6.2	6.2	5.9	8.1	7.3	7.3	6.3	6.6	5.9	5.9
4 years	5.6	6.1	5.4	6.1	6.2	4.9	5.6	5.8	5.0	6.7	8.4	9.3	6.0	5.3	6.0	5.6
5 years	5.8	5.3	5.9	4.6	5.7	5.4	4.9	5.1	5.5	6.3	6.3	5.0	5.6	6.0	4.2	5.0
6 years	6.6	6.1	5.0	5.6	7.3	5.7	6.2	6.2	6.2	5.3	5.2	6.7	6.2	5.2	5.6	4.9
7 years	5.4	6.9	5.9	5.9	5.8	7.4	5.1	4.5	5.7	6.9	5.3	5.5	7.0	5.9	5.8	5.1
8 years	6.2	5.4	5.8	5.2	6.5	4.7	4.6	5.0	6.4	7.4	5.9	6.1	5.5	6.1	5.3	4.9
9 years	6.6	6.3	5.5	5.3	5.5	6.4	5.0	4.8	6.8	6.2	4.4	4.5	5.9	5.5	5.3	5.1
10 years	6.0	6.1	6.3	5.8	4.7	5.5	5.3	4.8	6.0	5.7	5.0	5.5	6.2	6.0	5.6	5.4
11 years	5.5	6.0	6.1	6.1	6.1	4.1	5.2	6.0	5.1	5.0	6.3	5.6	5.9	5.9	6.1	5.6
12 years	4.7	5.3	5.8	5.7	4.5	3.9	5.1	5.6	4.2	4.5	4.7	5.5	5.3	5.7	5.8	6.5
13 years	5.6	5.0	5.3	5.8	3.7	3.8	5.2	4.2	5.4	4.3	5.3	2.8	4.6	5.2	5.6	6.1
14 years	4.9	5.1	4.9	5.5	3.9	3.1	4.8	4.9	4.1	3.1	4.3	3.8	5.0	5.0	5.6	5.8
15 years	4.6	4.1	5.4	5.5	2.3	3.2	3.7	3.3	4.6	1.7	3.2	3.6	4.0	5.1	5.6	5.5
16 years	4.5	4.2	4.3	4.6	2.0	2.1	2.2	3.4	3.5	3.3	3.0	3.2	4.1	4.5	4.7	5.3
17 years	3.5	3.2	3.1	3.2	0.6	0.7	1.6	0.8	4.1	3.3	3.4	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.2	4.2
18 years	1.2	1.0	1.3	1.3	0.2	0.0	<.1	0.0	4.9	3.1	3.9	2.0	1.1	1.4	1.5	1.9
19 years	<.1	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.7
20 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	<.1	0.3	<.1	0.2
Missing data	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	55.0	59.8	61.4	61.4	57.4	59.6	55.0	61.7	51.4	58.9	56.2	55.8	57.7	60.2	60.2	63.7
Asian	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.5	1.1	0.6	0.3	0.4	1.5	0.5	1.2	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.4
Black (non-Hispanic)	9.9	10.0	9.1	9.4	8.4	9.4	10.6	6.4	8.1	11.1	10.1	10.9	9.8	9.1	9.5	7.5
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	2.2	1.6	1.2	1.7	1.5	0.9	2.5	3.4	2.4	1.6	1.7	1.3	1.7	1.3	1.7	2.6
White (non-Hispanic)	29.5	26.3	26.5	25.5	28.4	27.2	29.4	26.1	33.8	24.5	29.9	28.4	27.1	27.6	26.6	24.7
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	2.5	1.3	1.1	1.3	3.9	1.8	2.0	2.1	3.8	2.3	1.8	2.4	2.7	1.1	1.3	1.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	688	701	621	639
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	371	341	357	367

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	3.2	2.7	2.7	1.9
1 year	7.7	7.0	5.3	5.6
2 years	8.3	7.7	7.9	4.9
3 years	8.1	9.0	6.8	7.0
4 years	7.4	7.0	6.6	6.9
5 years	7.3	7.3	6.0	5.0
6 years	7.4	5.6	7.1	6.7
7 years	9.3	6.6	7.6	6.1
8 years	6.0	7.6	6.0	5.9
9 years	5.1	7.1	6.6	5.9
10 years	7.0	6.1	8.1	5.6
11 years	6.8	7.1	6.0	7.8
12 years	4.9	6.0	6.1	7.0
13 years	3.5	4.4	5.8	6.7
14 years	2.6	3.3	4.2	6.1
15 years	1.9	2.7	3.1	4.4
16 years	1.7	1.3	2.9	3.3
17 years	0.7	1.0	0.8	2.2
18 years	0.6	0.3	0.5	0.5
19 years	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.2
20+ years	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.2
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	60.2	62.9	64.9	64.3
Asian	1.3	0.3	1.0	0.8
Black (non-Hispanic)	9.9	9.3	8.1	8.8
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	2.2	0.9	0.3	0.3
White (non-Hispanic)	24.1	26.1	25.1	24.9
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	2.3	0.6	0.6	0.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	202	278	230	208

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	3.0	0.4	0.4	2.9
1 year	6.9	8.3	10.4	5.8
2 years	8.9	10.8	7.4	10.1
3 years	9.4	14.0	12.2	7.2
4 years	6.4	7.9	12.2	12.5
5 years	5.9	10.1	10.4	8.2
6 years	10.4	7.2	3.9	5.8
7 years	7.4	10.1	3.9	7.7
8 years	8.4	7.6	10.4	6.7
9 years	7.9	4.7	5.2	9.6
10 years	10.4	4.7	4.8	7.2
11 years	6.4	5.4	7.8	3.8
12 years	3.5	3.2	5.2	3.8
13 years	2.5	2.2	2.6	1.9
14 years	1.5	1.1	1.7	2.9
15 years	0.5	0.7	0.4	1.4
16 years	0.0	1.1	0.4	1.4
17 years	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.5
18 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	36.6	35.6	48.3	61.1
Asian	0.5	0.0	1.3	1.9
Black (non-Hispanic)	3.5	5.0	7.0	5.3
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	8.9	7.6	3.9	6.3
White (non-Hispanic)	30.2	25.5	34.8	25.5
Two or more races	19.8	26.3	4.8	0.0
Unknown	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—	—
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	18.1	25.5	25.7	22.5
Guardianship	8.7	6.0	5.6	4.1
Reunification	67.8	64.6	62.9	66.7
Other	5.4	3.8	3.2	3.5
Missing data	0.1	0.1	2.6	3.2
Number	913	996	844	781

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—
Reunification	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.6	1.7	2.3	5.2
Guardianship	11.0	9.3	10.2	6.2
Reunification	62.6	67.8	75.0	63.9
Other	25.8	21.2	10.9	21.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	1.6	3.1
Number	155	118	128	97

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	18.8	27.3	50.0	22.2
Children older than 12 at entry	81.3	72.7	50.0	77.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	48	33	26	27

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	17.9	26.7	24.7	25.9	0.0	40.0	25.0	11.1	13.5	18.9	24.7	12.9
Guardianship	7.0	5.5	6.1	3.9	25.0	0.0	0.0	11.1	5.4	10.8	8.2	1.2
Reunification	69.9	64.9	61.2	62.6	75.0	60.0	75.0	66.7	73.0	68.5	63.5	80.0
Other	4.9	2.9	3.6	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.1	8.1	1.8	3.5	3.5
Missing data	0.2	0.0	4.4	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.4
Number	469	587	474	436	4	15	4	9	74	111	85	85

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	18.2	50.0	35.7	0.0	19.1	24.2	28.2	23.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.3	6.6	4.0	5.9
Reunification	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	81.8	50.0	64.3	100.0	61.5	62.3	65.1	65.3
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.1	6.6	2.4	5.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.5
Number	0	0	0	0	22	16	14	10	309	244	252	222

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	22.9	13.0	13.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	6.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	74.3	73.9	73.3	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	2.9	13.0	6.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	35	23	15	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	58.0	62.4	53.3	58.7
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	26.0	20.8	27.1	29.8
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	10.2	7.8	12.2	7.9
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.8	5.8	4.1	1.9
48 or more mos.	3.2	2.8	2.6	1.3
Missing data	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.4
Number	619	643	531	521

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	81.9	81.7	80.9	79.9
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	4.7	5.3	3.6	5.0
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	7.9	7.8	10.7	12.7
Missing data	5.4	5.2	4.9	2.4
Number	1,096	999	1,068	943

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	6.1	2.0	1.4	6.8
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	15.8	18.9	16.6	17.0
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	25.5	26.8	30.4	29.5
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	20.6	32.7	26.7	21.6
48 or more mos.	32.1	17.7	21.7	25.0
Missing data	0.0	2.0	3.2	0.0
Number	165	254	217	176

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	71.1	75.8	73.6	74.2	45.0	39.1	42.2	42.0	25.2	25.1	25.3	18.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	28.9	24.2	26.4	25.8	55.0	60.9	57.8	58.0	74.8	74.9	74.7	81.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,251	1,160	1,165	1,083	797	717	675	709	1,050	1,103	1,058	1,020	8	9	18	9

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	3.3	3.5	3.6	2.9
Institutions	1.4	0.5	0.9	0.4
Other settings	95.3	96.1	95.5	96.7
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	860	864	862	735

Tammy Sandoval, Deputy Commissioner
Office of Children's Services
Department of Health and Social Services

The following are Alaska's comments on the State's data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2003: Report to Congress*.

Section B (Child Maltreatment Victims): The large increase in child victims in 2001 is due in part to a change in Alaska's methodology for counting child maltreatment victims. Beginning in 2001, children were counted once for each report disposed. In prior years children were counted only once regardless of the number of reports disposed.

Also, data entry for completed investigations often lagged behind actual dispositions. During 2001, a clean-up effort to officially close and enter data for old investigations increased the numbers reported for that year. Twenty-three percent of the investigations reported in 2001 were for reports received prior to July 2000. As a result, data based on the number of investigations disposed during the year, including the number of victims, are significantly overstated in 2001 and understated in previous years. Finally, 90 percent fewer old investigations were included in 2002 compared to 2001, influencing the decline in reports and victims between those years. In addition, this decline reflects a decrease in both the number of reports received and the number of investigations assigned during the year that were completed in that year and entered into our MIS by the time the NCANDS report was generated. The decline in the number of reports received reflects changes in practice to improve consistency in the definition and entry of reports as well as any actual decline in calls.

Section E (Children Adopted): Fewer adoptions were reported in the foster care files (outcome measure 5.1) compared to the adoption file (Section E) due to delays in data entry (in the foster care file). Adoption file data (Section E), which are reported from another source, are more reliable.

Outcome measures 1.1 (Recurrence of Maltreatment) and 2.1 (Maltreatment in Foster Care): These measures are based on data from the NCANDS Child File. Alaska's MIS during this report period could not produce this file. For 2003, alternative data sources developed for the CFSR show a rate of 17.6 percent for measure 1.1 and 1.35 percent for measure 2.1.

Outcome measure 3.2 (Exits of Disabled Children): Data for measure 3.2 were not available from our MIS.

Alaska implemented the first phase of its SACWIS in September 2004. In subsequent years, the data for the various measures will be available as capacity is built in the new system.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of Alaska's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

Alaska's performance with regard to achieving outcome 1 cannot be assessed because the State does not provide data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) for calculating the measure for this outcome (measure 1.1). To ensure consistency across States, the Report to Congress presents only data submitted through NCANDS.

Alaska provided sufficient data to NCANDS to calculate the number of child victims in the State in 2003 (7,996). The child victim rate in 2003 was 42.2 child victims per 1,000 children in the State's child population, which not only exceeds the median of 10.6 child victims per 1,000 children in the population but is the highest child victim rate in the nation.

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

Alaska's performance with regard to achieving outcome 2 cannot be assessed because the State does not provide data to NCANDS for calculating the measure (measure 2.1) for this outcome. To ensure consistency across States, the Report to Congress presents only data submitted through NCANDS.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003, 93.3 percent of children exiting foster care in Alaska were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.1), which exceeds the national median of 86.3 percent. Also, 75.3 percent of the children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.3), which exceeds the national median of 72.2 percent. Alaska does not report data relevant to permanency for children exiting foster care who have a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2).

In 2003, 22.2 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4), which is less than the national median of 29.6 percent. Although performance on this measure declined from 2000 to 2003 (+18.1 percent change), there were fewer children reported as emancipated from foster care in 2003 (27 children) compared to 2000 (48 children).

There were no differences in exits to permanency as a function of children's race or ethnicity (measure 3.5). (This was assessed only when a particular race or ethnicity accounted for at least 10 percent of the exits from foster care.) Alaska Native/American Indian children exiting foster care were as likely to be discharged to a permanent home (92.4 percent) as were White (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care (94.2 percent). However, the percent of Alaska Native/American Indian children in the foster care population in 2003 (63.7 percent) was more than three times larger than the percent of Alaska Native/American Indian children in the State's child population (19.8 percent).

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, 58.7 percent of reunifications occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1), which is less than the national median of 72.0 percent. Performance with regard to this measure did not change from 2000 to 2003.

Although Alaska had a relatively low percentage of reunifications occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care, the State also had a relatively low percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (measure 4.2). In 2003, 5.0 percent of the children entering foster care were re-entering within 12 months of a prior foster care episode, which is less than the national median of 9.5 percent. However, performance on this measure declined from 2000 to 2003 (+6.4 percent change). In addition, the percent of children entering foster care who were re-entering more than 12 months after a prior foster care episode increased considerably (+60.8 percent change) from 2000 (7.9 percent) to 2003 (12.7 percent). Consequently, 17.7 percent of the children entering foster care in 2003 had been in foster care at a prior time.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2003, 23.8 percent of the adoptions in Alaska occurred within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 5.1), which is about equal to the national median of 23.9 percent. However, there is a discrepancy between the number of children reported to the Federal Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) Adoption File as having a finalized adoption in 2003 (208 children) and the number of children reported to the AFCARS Foster Care File as discharged in 2003 to a finalized adoption (176 children). Because the data on timeliness of adoptions do not include information pertaining to 15 percent of the State's adoptions, performance on outcome 5 cannot be fully assessed.

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, 74.2 percent of the children in foster care in Alaska for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings, which is less than the national median of 84.2 percent (measure 6.1). In addition, only 42.0 percent of the children in foster care in 2003 for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months, experienced two or fewer placement settings, which is less than the national median of 59.1 percent.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, only 3.3 percent of the children entering foster care in the State who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1), which is less than the national median of 8.3 percent. Performance on this measure improved from 2000 to 2003 (-29.8 percent change).

Arizona [CONTEXT DATA]

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	1,377,424	1,436,597	1,479,298	1,519,312
Race/Ethnicity (%)¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	6.6	6.6	6.3	6.2
Asian	1.6	1.7	1.5	1.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	3.4	3.6	3.2	3.2
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	36.1	36.7	36.3	37.1
White (non-Hispanic)	49.6	49.3	50.5	49.8
Two or more races	2.5	2.0	2.0	2.0
% Child population in poverty	19.6	22.3	19.3	19.1

Child Welfare Summary

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	7,460	5,389	5,114	4,838
Children in foster care on 9/30	6,475	6,050	6,173	7,469
Children adopted	853	938	793	839

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information

	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	51,811	37.6 per 1,000	54,166	37.7 per 1,000	52,288	35.3 per 1,000	76,269	50.2 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	7,460	5.4 per 1,000	5,389	3.8 per 1,000	5,114	3.5 per 1,000	4,838	3.2 per 1,000
Child fatalities	7	0.5 per 100,000	13	0.9 per 100,000	21	1.4 per 100,000	14	0.9 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	17.6	18.8	12.0	15.5
1-5 years	27.7	28.4	31.7	32.2
6-10 years	26.1	26.1	26.8	24.7
11-15 years	23.0	22.1	24.0	22.5
16+ years	5.4	4.6	5.3	5.0
Unknown	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0
Number	7,460	5,389	5,114	4,838

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)⁴

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	3.5	3.3	3.7	3.6
Asian	0.2	0.4	0.7	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	7.9	8.3	7.1	7.3
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.2
Hispanic (of any race)	33.9	33.4	36.0	34.9
White (non-Hispanic)	45.9	47.2	45.8	46.0
Two or more races	3.6	3.7	3.1	3.9
Unknown	5.0	3.7	3.6	3.7
Number	7,460	5,389	5,114	4,838

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁵

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	1.5	0.7	0.9	0.9
Medical neglect	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Neglect	71.4	71.6	70.4	74.4
Physical abuse	24.5	25.3	24.9	22.2
Sexual abuse	7.5	6.1	7.7	6.0
Unknown/missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	7,460	5,389	5,114	4,838

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	6,887	6,264	5,902	6,057	4,644	4,515	5,049	6,208	5,056	4,729	4,778	4,796	6,475	6,050	6,173	7,469
Median length of stay (months)	19.1	18.3	16.1	13.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9.4	9.6	7.7	7.1	18.0	15.8	13.7	11.0

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	4.2	4.6	5.1	5.7	14.1	13.0	13.3	16.9	5.2	4.3	4.8	6.7	4.8	5.2	5.8	7.5
1 year	5.6	6.1	6.3	7.0	6.9	6.5	6.9	6.5	5.8	6.3	6.8	6.5	6.1	6.3	7.0	7.9
2 years	5.7	5.2	5.7	5.9	5.2	6.6	6.6	7.5	6.7	6.6	6.8	8.0	5.2	5.7	5.9	6.5
3 years	5.5	4.9	5.2	5.5	5.4	4.9	5.8	6.2	6.0	5.7	6.2	6.5	4.9	5.2	5.5	5.8
4 years	4.8	5.1	4.2	4.9	4.9	5.1	4.9	5.5	5.3	5.7	5.0	5.9	5.0	4.2	4.9	5.4
5 years	5.4	4.8	4.5	3.7	4.3	4.5	4.4	4.9	5.2	5.3	4.8	5.2	4.7	4.5	3.7	4.4
6 years	5.3	4.4	4.4	4.6	4.7	4.9	5.0	4.5	5.4	5.0	5.1	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.1
7 years	4.7	4.7	4.2	4.1	4.7	4.1	4.3	4.9	5.9	4.5	4.6	4.9	4.7	4.1	4.1	4.5
8 years	5.0	4.3	4.4	3.9	4.2	4.1	3.7	3.9	4.5	4.8	4.6	4.0	4.3	4.4	4.0	4.3
9 years	5.0	4.8	4.3	3.9	4.4	3.8	3.6	3.5	4.5	4.1	3.8	3.8	4.7	4.2	3.9	3.6
10 years	5.2	4.9	4.5	3.7	4.0	4.2	4.0	3.4	4.0	4.1	4.5	3.4	4.8	4.5	3.8	3.8
11 years	5.3	5.3	4.5	4.3	4.3	3.7	3.9	4.1	4.6	4.6	4.1	3.7	5.3	4.5	4.3	3.7
12 years	5.3	5.2	5.4	4.3	4.4	4.8	4.0	3.7	4.0	4.6	4.1	3.9	5.3	5.4	4.3	4.3
13 years	6.0	6.2	5.6	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.1	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.5	4.0	6.2	5.7	5.4	4.4
14 years	6.0	7.0	7.0	6.3	6.6	6.8	6.2	5.1	5.1	5.8	5.4	4.6	7.1	7.0	6.4	5.4
15 years	6.2	6.9	7.7	7.5	6.4	7.4	7.1	5.3	5.2	6.1	6.0	4.9	7.0	7.9	7.5	6.3
16 years	6.9	6.7	7.4	8.6	6.0	6.1	6.7	5.5	5.3	5.9	5.9	5.5	6.7	7.3	8.7	7.4
17 years	6.2	7.0	6.9	7.4	4.1	4.3	4.4	4.2	6.2	5.2	7.4	9.8	7.0	6.8	7.4	7.5
18 years	1.2	1.3	2.2	1.9	<.1	0.1	<.1	<.1	5.8	6.5	4.5	2.9	1.4	2.1	1.9	1.7
19 years	0.4	0.2	0.6	1.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.6	1.0	0.8
20 years	0.1	<.1	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.3	<.1	0.3	0.5	<.1	<.1	0.3	0.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	2.8	2.4	2.3	2.1	3.4	4.1	3.8	3.3	3.8	4.1	4.0	3.0	2.5	2.3	2.1	2.5
Asian	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	<.1	0.3	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	12.5	12.5	10.8	9.7	9.1	7.5	7.6	7.7	9.5	9.9	8.9	8.7	12.4	10.8	9.7	8.7
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.1	<.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	31.2	33.3	34.1	34.9	32.5	32.5	35.7	36.2	30.5	32.0	35.0	35.0	32.7	33.8	34.7	35.9
White (non-Hispanic)	48.5	46.1	46.6	47.4	48.4	48.4	45.9	44.6	50.5	47.2	44.9	46.0	46.9	46.9	47.4	46.0
Two or more races	4.7	5.1	5.0	4.5	4.0	4.3	3.6	4.8	4.2	4.8	4.0	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.6	4.6
Unknown	0.2	0.5	1.2	1.4	2.5	2.8	3.2	3.0	1.5	1.7	2.9	2.5	0.9	1.3	1.5	2.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	2,340	2,507	1,650	1,676
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	1,390	1,304	1,280	1,224

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	4.3	7.9	2.8	2.5
1 year	8.6	10.7	9.4	11.5
2 years	8.7	8.6	8.4	8.8
3 years	7.8	7.6	7.0	7.3
4 years	7.1	6.6	6.4	6.7
5 years	7.0	6.6	5.5	5.7
6 years	6.4	6.0	6.6	5.2
7 years	6.6	6.1	6.4	6.0
8 years	6.4	6.3	5.4	6.0
9 years	6.5	5.8	6.9	5.1
10 years	6.7	6.0	5.6	5.8
11 years	6.9	5.3	6.1	5.8
12 years	5.3	5.7	5.8	5.4
13 years	4.2	4.0	6.7	5.6
14 years	3.7	3.4	4.8	5.4
15 years	2.7	2.9	4.7	4.2
16 years	0.9	0.5	1.3	2.1
17 years	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.8
18 years	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.9	1.3	0.9	1.2
Asian	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	10.7	9.1	8.6	7.8
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	36.9	36.3	35.4	35.4
White (non-Hispanic)	45.0	46.8	49.0	48.0
Two or more races	5.1	5.5	5.5	6.0
Unknown	0.4	1.0	0.7	1.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	853	938	793	839

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	0.7	0.9	2.1	2.1
1 year	6.0	5.9	10.3	11.6
2 years	11.8	13.4	12.5	14.5
3 years	9.8	11.3	10.0	10.8
4 years	8.4	10.0	7.8	7.4
5 years	8.4	8.5	8.1	7.7
6 years	8.4	7.2	6.8	7.7
7 years	8.6	7.0	6.6	6.6
8 years	7.5	5.9	6.9	5.4
9 years	6.4	5.8	5.8	5.5
10 years	6.0	4.4	5.5	3.7
11 years	5.5	6.2	5.4	3.9
12 years	4.0	4.9	3.9	4.2
13 years	4.0	2.6	3.8	2.9
14 years	2.3	2.2	1.8	2.7
15 years	0.8	1.6	1.1	1.8
16 years	0.9	1.6	0.6	1.0
17 years	0.2	0.6	0.9	0.5
18 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	2.5	1.5	1.4	0.7
Asian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	10.6	9.9	8.6	6.6
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	25.8	38.3	40.6	38.9
White (non-Hispanic)	56.4	43.7	42.7	48.2
Two or more races	4.8	6.4	6.3	5.2
Unknown	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Arizona [OUTCOMES DATA]

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	93.9	96.0	96.5	96.6
Children with one or more recurrences	6.1	4.0	3.5	3.4
Number	3,558	2,461	2,353	2,237

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.34	0.17	0.25	<.1
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.66	99.83	99.75	99.90
Number	10,450	9,647	9,760	11,296

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	18.4	18.7	17.0	17.6
Guardianship	0.5	5.7	12.9	12.4
Reunification	71.8	66.1	56.6	55.7
Other	9.3	9.5	13.6	14.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	5,056	4,729	4,778	4,796

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	19.5	24.0	25.1	28.7
Guardianship	0.0	7.0	13.3	11.6
Reunification	72.7	57.3	42.3	36.8
Other	7.8	11.8	19.3	22.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	128	805	1,353	1,555

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.6
Guardianship	0.5	3.7	7.1	8.1
Reunification	71.3	70.9	63.9	58.2
Other	27.6	24.5	28.3	33.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,312	1,298	1,334	1,267

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	23.1	23.4	26.5	26.9
Children older than 12 at entry	76.9	76.6	73.5	73.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	450	363	400	412

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	13.6	5.1	4.7	4.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.9	17.1	16.2	14.4
Guardianship	0.0	4.1	14.5	11.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	0.2	7.1	13.4	13.6
Reunification	81.7	83.2	66.8	67.6	83.3	100.0	100.0	75.0	66.8	61.0	48.5	53.3
Other	4.7	7.7	14.0	17.2	16.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.1	14.8	21.9	18.7
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	191	196	193	145	6	3	12	4	479	467	425	418

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.2	22.7	19.6	19.3	20.0	17.3	16.4	18.4
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	4.8	13.2	14.7	0.4	6.1	12.0	10.8
Reunification	0.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	74.8	65.2	55.4	53.7	69.4	66.4	58.0	55.9
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.4	7.3	11.8	12.3	10.2	10.2	13.5	14.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	0	6	1	3	1,543	1,514	1,671	1,677	2,553	2,234	2,143	2,204

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	2.7	2.4	2.9	4.1	19.5	26.9	25.4	19.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	0.0	2.4	12.1	11.6	1.0	7.5	17.6	10.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	97.3	90.2	75.7	69.4	73.3	55.1	42.0	58.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	4.9	9.3	14.9	6.2	10.6	15.0	11.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	74	82	140	121	210	227	193	224	0	0	0	0

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	71.5	73.7	83.8	85.0
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	15.0	15.0	11.6	11.1
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	8.0	5.2	2.7	2.1
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	2.8	2.8	0.8	0.7
48 or more mos.	2.7	3.1	1.1	1.1
Missing data	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.0
Number	3,632	3,127	2,704	2,673

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	84.7	80.5	79.7	82.8
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	11.5	13.8	12.2	10.1
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	3.9	5.7	8.1	7.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	4,644	4,515	5,049	6,208

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	3.8	4.4	2.1	1.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	14.4	19.1	26.4	28.2
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	28.3	35.5	31.1	35.7
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	26.2	24.0	20.0	19.8
48 or more mos.	27.3	16.9	20.5	14.8
Missing data	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Number	930	884	811	845

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	82.4	82.4	83.5	83.0	51.5	49.8	51.0	50.5	29.6	25.8	21.3	20.4	66.7	15.4	94.7	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	14.9	16.2	16.2	16.5	47.9	49.8	48.9	49.4	70.3	74.2	78.7	79.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	5,171	5,037	5,605	6,802	2,121	2,165	2,242	2,515	4,224	3,564	3,085	2,926	15	13	19	22

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	6.6	7.7	9.3	9.5
Institutions	20.6	23.1	25.0	19.3
Other settings	67.0	68.5	65.7	71.3
Missing data	5.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Number	3,292	3,138	3,510	4,631

Arizona [STATE COMMENT]

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of Arizona's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, only 3.4 percent of the children who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percent not only is less than the national median of 7.1 percent, but also represents an improvement in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (-44.3 percent change).

A corresponding change occurred with regard to the State's child victim rate. There was a decrease in the child victim rate from 5.4 per 1,000 children in the population in 2000 to 3.2 per 1,000 children in the population in 2003. Arizona's child victim rate for 2003 was the second lowest rate in the nation.

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

In 2003, only 0.10 percent of children in foster care in Arizona were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1), which is less than the national median of 0.39 percent. In addition, this performance on this measure improved from 2000 to 2003 (-70.6 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003, 85.7 percent of children exiting foster care in Arizona were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.1), which is about equal to the national median of 86.3 percent. Also in 2003, 77.1 percent of the children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.2), which is slightly less than the national median of 79.5 percent. In contrast, only 66.9 percent of the children exiting foster care in 2003 who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.3). This percent not only is less than the national median of 72.2 percent, but also represents a decline in performance from 2000 to 2003 (-7.7 percent change).

With regard to ensuring that children who are emancipated from foster care (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) do not spend most of their formative years in foster care, 26.9 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care in 2003 entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4). Although this percentage is slightly less than the national median of 29.6 percent, it represents a decline in performance from 2000 to 2003 (+16.5 percent change).

The data also indicate that many children emancipated from foster care in Arizona are younger than age 18 at the time of their emancipation. In 2003, 187 of the children exiting foster care were age 18 or older at the time of exit. However, 412 children exiting foster care in that year were reported to have a discharge reason of emancipation.

There were no substantive differences in 2003 with regard to exits to permanency as a function of children's race or ethnicity (measure 3.5). (This was assessed only when a particular race or ethnicity accounted for at least 10 percent of the exits from foster care.) Alaska Native/American Indian children exiting foster care were as likely to be discharged to a permanent home (82.7 percent) as were White (non-Hispanic) children (85.1 percent), Black (non-Hispanic) children (81.3 percent), and Hispanic children (87.7 percent).

However, the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the foster care population in 2003 (8.7 percent) was more than twice the percent of those children in the State's child population (3.2 percent).

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, 85 percent of all reunifications in the State occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1). This percent not only exceeds the national median of 72.0 percent, but also represents an improvement in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (+18.9 percent change). In addition, only 1.8 percent of reunifications occurred after the child had been in foster care for at least 36 months, which is less than the national median of 3.5 percent.

Although Arizona had a relatively high percentage of reunifications in 2003 that occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care, the State also had a relatively high percentage of children entering foster care in 2003 who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode. In 2003, 10.1 percent of children entering foster care in Arizona were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (measure 4.2), which is higher than the national median of 9.5 percent. However, performance on this measure exhibited improvement from 2000 to 2003 (-12.2 percent change). An additional finding for 2003 was that 7.1 percent of the children entering foster care were re-entering more than 12 months after a prior episode. This percentage represents a substantial increase from 2000 to 2003 (+82.1 percent change). Consequently, 17.2 percent of the children entering foster care in 2003 had been in foster care at a prior time.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2003, 29.7 percent of all finalized adoptions in Arizona occurred within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 5.1). This percent not only exceeds the national median of 23.9 percent, but also represents an improvement in performance on the measure from 2000 to 2003 (+62.2 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, 83.0 percent of the children in foster care for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings (measure 6.1), which is about equal to the national median of 84.2 percent. However, only 50.5 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months, experienced no more than two placement settings, which is less than the national median of 59.1 percent.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 28.8 percent of the children entering foster care in Arizona who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percent not only far exceeds the national median of 8.3 percent, but also represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (+5.9 percent change).

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	680,208	680,051	681,975	682,013
Race/Ethnicity (%)¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6
Asian	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Black (non-Hispanic)	20.6	20.7	20.2	20.3
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	4.7	4.9	4.8	5.0
White (non-Hispanic)	71.3	71.1	71.8	71.5
Two or more races	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.6
% Child population in poverty	27.3	28.3	31.2	26.8

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	7,479	6,927	7,302	7,232
Children in foster care on 9/30	3,045	2,959	2,971	3,014
Children adopted	325	362	297	385

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	23,335	34.3 per 1,000	25,655	37.7 per 1,000	26,237	38.5 per 1,000	44,666	65.5 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	7,479	11.0 per 1,000	6,927	10.2 per 1,000	7,302	10.7 per 1,000	7,232	10.6 per 1,000
Child fatalities	12	1.8 per 100,000	22	3.2 per 100,000	13	1.9 per 100,000	10	1.5 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	5.9	5.0	5.8	6.3
1-5 years	27.4	27.8	27.9	28.3
6-10 years	29.3	27.3	28.1	27.4
11-15 years	30.0	31.5	30.5	30.5
16+ years	6.9	7.8	7.2	6.8
Unknown	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.8
Number	7,479	6,927	7,302	7,232

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	22.4	21.5	21.2	21.5
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	2.2	3.7	4.6	4.3
White (non-Hispanic)	72.5	68.4	69.3	69.1
Two or more races	0.0	3.8	3.9	4.3
Unknown	2.6	2.2	0.5	0.3
Number	7,479	6,927	7,302	7,232

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	0.6	0.9	0.7	1.1
Medical neglect	3.4	3.4	2.8	3.0
Neglect	52.7	47.2	50.4	54.5
Physical abuse	22.3	26.5	21.0	18.9
Sexual abuse	27.9	30.6	32.7	29.2
Unknown/missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	1.2	0.4	0.2	0.3
Number	7,479	6,927	7,302	7,232

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	3,180	2,855	2,816	2,864	3,542	3,347	3,350	3,561	3,679	3,244	3,196	3,411	3,045	2,959	2,971	3,014
Median length of stay (months)	12.3	12.6	12.4	12.9	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.6	3.0	2.8	2.2	12.6	11.8	12.6	12.5

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	3.6	4.8	4.4	3.6	9.7	9.6	10.7	12.0	4.8	5.2	6.2	6.9	4.7	4.3	3.6	4.3
1 year	5.3	5.1	5.9	6.5	6.5	7.1	6.8	6.5	6.2	6.6	6.5	6.5	5.0	6.2	6.5	5.9
2 years	5.3	4.9	5.5	5.7	5.3	5.9	7.4	7.2	6.0	6.3	7.1	7.3	4.8	5.4	5.9	5.9
3 years	4.1	4.6	4.1	5.6	5.1	5.1	5.7	5.6	5.1	5.7	6.0	6.3	4.6	4.1	5.7	5.6
4 years	4.6	4.2	4.0	4.0	4.6	4.9	4.8	5.8	4.7	5.4	4.9	5.9	4.1	4.1	4.0	5.2
5 years	4.1	4.3	3.8	3.9	4.7	4.8	4.6	4.8	4.4	5.1	4.3	4.7	4.4	3.8	4.1	4.0
6 years	4.4	4.4	3.7	4.2	5.1	4.6	4.3	5.1	4.9	4.9	4.3	5.4	4.4	3.8	4.2	3.6
7 years	4.0	4.4	4.3	3.9	4.6	4.9	4.8	4.3	4.6	5.1	4.6	3.9	4.5	4.2	4.1	4.4
8 years	4.9	3.7	4.3	4.2	4.7	4.7	4.1	4.5	4.8	4.9	4.3	4.7	3.7	4.2	4.2	3.9
9 years	4.2	5.0	4.1	4.0	4.9	4.9	4.3	3.9	4.5	4.2	4.1	4.2	5.0	4.1	4.0	4.0
10 years	4.1	4.1	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.2	4.8	4.0	4.8	4.6	4.3	4.3	4.0	4.7	4.6	3.8
11 years	4.8	4.0	4.9	5.5	4.3	5.1	4.7	3.8	4.6	4.1	4.5	4.0	3.9	5.0	5.4	4.1
12 years	5.4	5.0	5.0	4.8	5.2	5.2	4.4	5.2	4.6	4.5	4.8	4.9	5.0	5.1	4.7	5.2
13 years	5.6	6.1	6.0	5.2	6.2	5.8	5.8	5.3	5.2	4.5	5.1	3.5	6.3	5.9	5.2	6.0
14 years	7.0	6.7	7.3	6.6	7.2	6.3	5.6	5.8	6.0	5.2	4.8	5.0	6.8	7.3	6.5	6.3
15 years	7.5	7.7	7.6	8.4	6.4	6.7	6.1	6.5	6.2	6.0	5.4	5.9	7.9	7.7	8.5	8.2
16 years	8.6	8.8	8.4	8.0	6.6	5.7	6.9	5.7	6.1	5.6	6.2	5.6	8.7	8.3	7.8	8.9
17 years	8.5	8.2	8.5	8.3	4.3	4.5	4.1	4.0	6.7	6.2	7.1	7.1	8.0	8.2	8.1	7.1
18 years	2.5	2.6	2.2	2.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.5	4.9	4.4	3.0	2.7	2.2	2.0	2.2
19 years	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.9
20 years	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.4
Missing data	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.2	0.2	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.4	<.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1	<.1	0.3	0.2	0.2
Asian	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	<.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	40.5	38.2	33.8	31.7	30.7	26.4	25.0	27.0	32.1	29.0	26.5	27.3	39.4	34.9	31.8	31.0
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	2.1	1.9	2.2	3.2	2.2	3.2	5.4	4.3	2.4	3.1	4.7	4.1	1.9	2.0	3.2	3.5
White (non-Hispanic)	54.9	56.0	57.9	57.8	62.5	63.5	64.2	61.7	61.4	61.6	64.1	62.1	55.8	58.3	58.4	57.5
Two or more races	0.7	2.6	5.0	6.6	1.8	5.0	4.6	6.5	1.7	4.3	3.7	5.9	0.7	3.4	6.0	7.4
Unknown	1.2	1.1	0.7	0.5	2.3	1.3	0.3	0.2	1.7	1.4	0.5	0.3	1.9	0.9	0.4	0.3
Missing data	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	817	808	982	986
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	63	248	414	414

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	3.7	3.2	2.0	3.1
1 year	5.4	5.7	8.6	7.1
2 years	6.6	6.4	8.9	6.9
3 years	6.2	6.4	6.9	6.5
4 years	6.1	5.9	6.1	6.9
5 years	6.4	5.8	6.0	4.4
6 years	5.4	5.8	6.0	5.6
7 years	6.2	6.1	5.2	5.6
8 years	6.2	5.9	6.0	6.6
9 years	8.4	6.9	5.1	6.3
10 years	7.0	7.8	7.0	5.5
11 years	6.2	6.1	7.1	6.0
12 years	7.3	6.9	5.7	7.9
13 years	6.5	6.7	5.9	6.1
14 years	6.1	5.4	5.9	5.6
15 years	2.7	5.8	5.5	5.7
16 years	2.7	1.6	1.6	2.9
17 years	0.7	0.9	0.3	1.1
18 years	0.0	0.4	0.1	0.3
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.1
Asian	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	41.4	37.9	30.8	28.9
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	2.1	1.7	2.5	2.8
White (non-Hispanic)	54.1	55.4	59.1	59.7
Two or more races	0.6	3.6	6.4	7.9
Unknown	1.7	1.1	0.9	0.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	325	362	297	385

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	3.4	1.7	3.0	2.6
1 year	6.2	6.6	5.7	7.0
2 years	9.2	8.6	9.8	14.5
3 years	10.5	9.4	9.8	10.6
4 years	7.7	8.0	7.1	10.1
5 years	5.8	8.3	5.4	6.8
6 years	5.8	8.0	5.7	7.5
7 years	6.5	7.5	7.7	3.6
8 years	4.3	4.7	7.1	4.2
9 years	6.8	4.7	7.7	5.2
10 years	3.7	8.0	5.4	6.0
11 years	7.1	5.8	5.7	5.2
12 years	5.5	5.5	4.4	2.9
13 years	4.6	2.2	3.4	3.9
14 years	4.6	3.6	3.4	4.9
15 years	2.8	2.2	3.7	2.3
16 years	3.1	4.1	3.0	1.6
17 years	0.9	0.8	2.0	1.0
18 years	0.9	0.3	0.0	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.6	0.0	0.3	0.0
Asian	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	36.6	32.9	33.0	30.9
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	4.0	2.8	1.7	4.4
White (non-Hispanic)	57.2	61.9	60.9	61.0
Two or more races	0.9	1.7	3.4	3.6
Unknown	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.0
Missing data	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	94.4	94.6	94.1	94.9
Children with one or more recurrences	5.6	5.4	5.9	5.1
Number	3,887	3,372	3,523	3,214

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.17	0.26	0.26	0.25
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.83	99.74	99.74	99.75
Number	5,991	5,428	5,436	5,669

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	10.7	10.9	9.3	11.0
Guardianship	0.0	1.0	1.7	2.3
Reunification	59.7	71.5	81.0	80.3
Other	5.3	6.2	8.0	6.4
Missing data	24.4	10.4	<.1	<.1
Number	3,679	3,244	3,196	3,411

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	15.8	21.7	20.7	20.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.7	1.9	1.1
Reunification	51.1	54.8	59.9	61.9
Other	8.9	13.6	17.4	17.0
Missing data	24.1	9.1	0.0	0.0
Number	783	538	362	370

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.1
Guardianship	0.0	1.7	2.7	3.7
Reunification	54.4	66.8	73.7	76.5
Other	14.3	15.0	21.8	18.7
Missing data	29.2	14.7	0.1	0.0
Number	1,136	946	966	937

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	14.5	19.9	14.3	16.4
Children older than 12 at entry	85.5	80.1	85.7	83.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	172	166	223	195

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/American Indian				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	6.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.9	13.8	10.6	11.5
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4	0.5	1.7
Reunification	40.0	60.0	100.0	100.0	72.7	100.0	90.9	100.0	61.5	65.9	79.9	78.5
Other	6.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.1	0.0	5.0	6.3	8.9	8.3
Missing data	46.7	40.0	0.0	0.0	27.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.5	12.6	0.1	0.0
Number	15	5	7	4	11	8	11	5	1,180	941	846	932

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.5	9.9	4.7	10.6	10.9	10.3	9.1	10.5
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	1.3	0.7	0.0	1.0	2.2	2.6
Reunification	0.0	33.3	0.0	0.0	55.1	78.2	89.3	87.9	58.7	72.5	80.7	80.7
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.4	5.9	4.7	0.7	5.8	6.4	8.0	6.1
Missing data	0.0	66.7	0.0	0.0	28.1	4.0	0.0	0.0	24.7	9.8	<.1	<.1
Number	0	3	0	0	89	101	150	141	2,260	1,999	2,049	2,118

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	4.8	14.9	26.7	45.5	1.6	1.4	6.8	12.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.5	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	64.5	70.2	66.7	54.5	66.1	89.9	83.9	80.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	3.2	6.4	6.7	0.0	0.0	2.9	6.8	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	27.4	8.5	0.0	0.0	32.3	5.8	0.0	0.5	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0
Number	62	47	15	11	62	139	118	200	0	1	0	0

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	86.2	85.7	86.1	87.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	9.4	10.4	9.4	8.2
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	2.4	1.6	2.4	2.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.6
48 or more mos.	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.3
Missing data	0.5	1.3	0.8	0.7
Number	2,196	2,319	2,589	2,740

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	85.8	81.4	81.5	81.8
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	10.5	12.1	11.2	11.4
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	2.6	5.8	7.0	6.7
Missing data	1.1	0.6	0.3	0.1
Number	3,542	3,347	3,350	3,561

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	8.7	5.9	7.1	3.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	25.5	29.3	27.0	35.0
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	21.2	28.7	30.7	34.0
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	16.3	17.2	17.9	18.2
48 or more mos.	11.7	18.9	16.2	9.4
Missing data	16.6	0.0	1.0	0.0
Number	392	355	296	374

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	73.8	75.3	76.8	77.8	49.2	39.4	40.7	38.7	44.5	30.6	24.4	23.0	75.0	70.3	69.8	78.9
Children with 3 or more placements	18.3	23.2	21.7	21.5	47.8	60.0	59.0	61.2	52.3	68.6	73.7	77.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	4,048	3,797	3,773	3,992	1,163	1,086	1,073	1,071	1,421	1,283	1,268	1,324	92	37	53	38

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	0.0	0.7	1.7	0.6
Institutions	3.8	8.3	11.5	12.8
Other settings	96.0	90.9	86.8	86.5
Missing data	0.2	<.1	<.1	0.1
Number	2,277	2,318	2,336	2,540

Arkansas

[STATE COMMENT]

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of Arkansas performance with regard to achieving the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, 5.1 percent of the children in Arkansas who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percent is not only less than the national median of 7.1 percent, but also represents improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (-8.9 percent change). The child victim rate in 2003 was 10.6 victims per 1,000 children in the State population, which is equal to the national median.

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

In 2003, only 0.25 percent of children in foster care in Arkansas were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). Although this percent is less than the national median of 0.39, performance on this measure declined from 2000 to 2003 (+47.1 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003, 93.6 percent of children exiting foster care in Arkansas were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.1), which exceeds the national median of 86.3 percent. Also in 2003, 83.0 percent of the children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.2), which exceeds the national median of 79.5 percent. Finally, 81.3 percent of the children exiting foster care in 2003 who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.3), which exceeds the national median of 72.2 percent. Change in performance on these measures from 2000 to 2003 cannot be assessed because of missing information in 2000 and 2001 regarding discharge reasons.

In 2003, only 16.4 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4). Although this percent is less than the national median of 29.6, performance on this measure declined from 2000 to 2003 (+13.1 percent change).

The data reported in measure 3.4 suggest that some children might be emancipated from foster care before their 18th birthday. For example, in 2003, 130 of the children exiting foster care were age 18 or older. However, 195 children exiting foster care in that year were reported to have a discharge reason of emancipation.

There were no real differences in exits to permanency as a function of children's race or ethnicity (measure 3.5). (This was assessed only when a particular race or ethnicity accounted for at least 10 percent of the exits from foster care.) Black (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care were about as likely to be discharged to a permanent home (91.7 percent) as were White (non-Hispanic) children (93.8 percent). However, the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the foster care population in 2003 (31.0 percent) exceeded the percent of these children in the State's child population (20.3 percent).

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, 87.9 percent of all reunifications occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1), which exceeds the national median of 72.0 percent. Performance on this measure did not change from 2000 to 2003. Also, only 0.9 percent of reunifications occurred after a child had been in foster care for at least 36 months, which is less than the national median of 3.5 percent.

Although a high percentage of children are reunified within 12 months of entering foster care, a high percentage of children also are re-entering foster care. In 2003, 11.4 percent of children entering foster care in Arkansas were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (measure 4.2). This percent not only exceeds the national median of 9.5 percent, but also represents a decline in performance from 2000 to 2003 (+8.6 percent change). In addition, 6.7 percent of children entering foster care were re-entering more than 12 months after a prior foster care episode. Consequently, 18.1 percent of the children entering foster care in 2003 had been in foster care at a prior time, compared to 13.1 percent of the children entering foster care in 2000.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2003, 38.5 percent of all finalized adoptions in Arkansas occurred within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 5.1). This percent not only exceeds the national median of 23.9 percent, but also represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (+12.6 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, 77.8 percent of the children in foster care in Arkansas for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings, which is less than the national median of 84.2 percent (measure 6.1). In addition, only 38.7 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months, experienced no more than two placement settings, which is considerably less than the national median of 59.1 percent. Children in foster care for 12 months were far more likely to experience placement stability than were children in foster care for 12 to 24 months.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

The data relevant to performance on outcome 7 suggest that there may be data quality issues associated with this measure. In 2000, only 3.8 percent of the children entering foster care who were age 12 and younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). However, in 2003, that percentage was 13.4, reflecting a 252.6 percent change. It may be possible that the change is due to implementation of a group home or institution placement policy for children after 2000 that is reflected in a steadily increasing percentage for this measure from 2001 to 2003.

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	9,271,687	9,355,719	9,375,121	9,419,970
Race/Ethnicity (%)¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Asian	9.6	9.5	9.5	9.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	7.1	7.2	6.8	6.7
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.3
Hispanic (of any race)	43.8	44.3	43.6	44.2
White (non-Hispanic)	34.8	35.2	36.3	35.7
Two or more races	3.9	3.0	3.0	3.0
% Child population in poverty	19.2	16.4	18.7	18.5

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	129,678	128,251	132,181	106,198
Children in foster care on 9/30	112,807	107,168	100,451	97,261
Children adopted	8,818	9,156	8,840	7,433

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	486,127	52.4 per 1,000	485,911	51.9 per 1,000	512,880	54.7 per 1,000	464,110	49.3 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	129,678	14.0 per 1,000	128,251	13.7 per 1,000	132,181	14.1 per 1,000	106,198	11.3 per 1,000
Child fatalities	53	0.6 per 100,000	0	— per 100,000	—	— per 100,000	—	— per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	9.5	9.6	9.8	10.2
1-5 years	29.1	28.4	28.3	27.9
6-10 years	30.8	30.8	30.1	29.0
11-15 years	24.5	25.0	25.8	26.3
16+ years	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.6
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	129,678	128,251	132,181	106,198

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.0	0.8	0.9	1.1
Asian	3.8	3.5	3.4	3.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	15.6	14.6	14.4	15.0
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.4
Hispanic (of any race)	39.6	41.3	18.3	44.0
White (non-Hispanic)	32.9	32.0	31.3	31.7
Two or more races	0.0	2.5	2.7	0.0
Unknown	7.1	5.3	29.1	4.8
Number	129,678	128,251	132,181	106,198

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	18.7	18.2	16.3	17.7
Medical neglect	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Neglect	56.7	42.2	44.3	66.5
Physical abuse	16.1	14.5	13.2	14.9
Sexual abuse	8.3	8.3	7.5	8.4
Unknown/missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	10.5	31.2	33.0	0.2
Number	129,678	128,251	132,181	106,198

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	117,223	106,081	99,513	95,808	45,685	45,176	46,557	45,796	50,112	44,096	45,625	44,350	112,807	107,168	100,451	97,261
Median length of stay (months)	24.5	26.2	24.8	22.9	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	18.2	17.0	15.5	14.9	26.6	25.3	22.9	22.0

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	3.5	3.5	3.7	4.1	14.0	13.9	14.4	15.5	3.6	3.8	4.1	4.6	3.4	3.6	4.0	4.4
1 year	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.8	6.0	5.9	6.0	6.2	5.1	5.2	5.4	6.0	4.5	4.4	4.8	5.0
2 years	4.9	4.6	4.7	4.4	5.4	5.7	5.3	5.6	6.0	6.3	6.3	6.5	4.5	4.7	4.4	4.6
3 years	5.1	4.5	4.4	4.4	5.1	5.1	5.1	4.8	6.2	5.8	5.8	5.5	4.5	4.3	4.4	4.1
4 years	5.3	4.7	4.3	4.1	5.0	4.7	4.7	4.7	6.1	5.5	5.4	5.4	4.6	4.2	4.1	4.1
5 years	5.0	4.8	4.5	4.0	5.1	4.8	4.7	4.6	5.7	5.3	5.0	5.0	4.8	4.4	4.0	3.8
6 years	5.3	4.9	4.6	4.3	5.1	4.8	4.8	4.4	5.7	5.5	5.2	4.6	4.8	4.5	4.3	3.8
7 years	5.4	5.2	4.8	4.4	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.5	5.3	5.1	5.0	4.7	5.1	4.7	4.5	4.2
8 years	5.6	5.3	5.2	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.4	4.4	5.2	4.9	4.8	4.6	5.2	5.0	4.6	4.4
9 years	5.5	5.5	5.2	4.9	4.6	4.5	4.3	4.2	5.2	4.8	4.6	4.5	5.4	5.1	5.0	4.4
10 years	5.5	5.4	5.6	5.1	4.3	4.4	4.1	4.0	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.3	5.3	5.4	5.1	4.8
11 years	5.3	5.6	5.5	5.5	4.0	4.3	4.1	4.0	4.2	4.1	4.0	4.1	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.0
12 years	5.1	5.4	5.8	5.6	4.4	4.5	4.3	4.5	4.0	4.0	4.2	4.3	5.3	5.7	5.6	5.5
13 years	5.3	5.6	5.8	6.0	5.1	5.0	5.1	5.0	4.0	3.9	4.0	4.1	5.5	5.7	6.0	5.8
14 years	5.7	6.0	6.2	6.5	5.9	5.9	6.1	6.1	4.2	4.1	4.4	4.4	6.0	6.1	6.5	6.6
15 years	6.1	6.7	6.8	7.2	6.5	6.5	6.7	6.5	4.4	4.9	4.7	4.9	6.6	6.8	7.1	7.3
16 years	6.6	7.0	7.2	7.9	6.2	6.5	6.8	6.6	4.8	5.4	5.4	5.0	6.8	7.3	7.7	8.0
17 years	6.7	6.7	6.9	7.5	3.7	4.0	4.1	4.3	6.0	6.2	6.9	7.1	6.8	7.0	7.3	8.1
18 years	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.9	<.1	0.1	0.1	<.1	8.3	9.1	8.5	8.7	3.5	3.2	3.0	3.4
19 years	0.6	0.9	0.9	1.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.1	1.3
20 years	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.5	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6
Missing data	<.1	<.1	0.2	0.5	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.1	<.1	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.9

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.8	1.3	1.1	0.8	0.9	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.8	1.2	0.9	0.8	0.8
Asian	1.8	1.3	1.3	1.3	3.1	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.7	2.0	2.1	2.2	1.9	1.4	1.3	1.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	34.3	32.3	31.4	30.2	21.5	19.7	19.0	18.3	24.7	21.9	21.3	20.5	33.3	31.3	30.2	29.0
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4
Hispanic (of any race)	32.9	35.6	36.7	38.0	38.2	39.4	42.1	43.0	35.3	38.3	40.1	40.0	33.9	36.1	37.7	39.4
White (non-Hispanic)	29.3	26.6	26.2	25.9	33.6	32.5	30.5	30.1	34.1	32.0	30.8	31.3	28.9	26.8	26.1	25.4
Two or more races	<.1	2.5	2.9	3.2	0.1	2.9	3.3	3.3	0.3	2.6	3.1	3.4	<.1	2.6	2.9	3.2
Unknown	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.2	1.9	2.0	1.5	1.7	1.3	1.7	1.2	1.3	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	12,004	7,682	6,335	5,473
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	9,080	965	994	1,038

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	3.4	5.9	7.4	10.0
1 year	7.8	8.0	9.7	10.8
2 years	9.4	7.7	6.6	8.7
3 years	10.0	7.3	6.8	5.3
4 years	10.1	8.3	6.5	5.7
5 years	8.8	8.5	6.8	5.3
6 years	7.9	7.9	6.9	5.3
7 years	7.3	7.0	7.3	5.7
8 years	6.6	7.1	5.9	5.8
9 years	6.0	6.4	6.6	5.0
10 years	5.0	5.9	5.9	5.8
11 years	4.4	4.9	5.5	5.3
12 years	3.3	4.3	4.6	5.1
13 years	3.1	3.0	4.0	4.2
14 years	2.5	2.8	2.8	3.7
15 years	1.8	2.3	2.6	2.9
16 years	1.4	1.3	2.2	2.6
17 years	0.9	0.9	1.3	2.1
18 years	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5
19 years	<.1	<.1	0.1	<.1
20+ years	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.5
Asian	1.6	0.9	1.0	0.8
Black (non-Hispanic)	31.2	34.0	32.3	31.6
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Hispanic (of any race)	35.5	37.5	37.1	38.2
White (non-Hispanic)	30.6	23.3	24.8	24.9
Two or more races	0.0	3.2	3.7	3.5
Unknown	0.2	0.2	0.2	<.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	8,818	9,156	8,840	7,433

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	2.3	2.0	2.3	1.6
1 year	8.6	8.7	9.1	11.2
2 years	12.9	12.4	12.6	13.0
3 years	13.0	10.8	11.5	11.0
4 years	12.3	10.9	9.8	9.7
5 years	10.0	9.3	8.1	8.2
6 years	7.7	8.2	7.7	7.2
7 years	6.1	6.9	6.7	6.5
8 years	5.6	5.6	6.0	5.7
9 years	5.6	5.6	5.2	5.2
10 years	4.0	4.9	4.7	4.7
11 years	3.0	3.8	4.0	4.2
12 years	2.8	3.2	3.5	3.2
13 years	1.9	2.3	2.7	2.6
14 years	1.4	1.8	2.2	1.9
15 years	1.0	1.4	1.6	1.4
16 years	0.8	1.1	1.1	1.3
17 years	0.6	0.8	0.9	1.1
18 years	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3
19 years	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
20+ years	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5
Asian	1.2	1.0	1.4	1.6
Black (non-Hispanic)	22.1	16.8	22.6	20.2
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.3
Hispanic (of any race)	33.9	37.5	40.8	39.8
White (non-Hispanic)	34.7	30.3	28.7	32.0
Two or more races	0.3	1.3	1.6	5.5
Unknown	7.1	12.5	3.8	0.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	89.3	88.8	88.8	90.8
Children with one or more recurrences	10.7	11.2	11.2	9.2
Number	60,886	59,715	61,017	49,327

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	0.34	0.33	0.20
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	99.66	99.67	99.80
Number	—	140,134	134,724	131,639

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	15.4	17.7	18.3	17.3
Guardianship	7.1	5.4	5.2	5.2
Reunification	61.7	59.2	58.2	61.8
Other	14.4	15.6	15.3	15.4
Missing data	1.5	2.1	3.0	0.3
Number	50,112	44,096	45,625	44,350

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	24.7	27.5	27.2	24.6
Guardianship	6.0	5.1	4.9	5.3
Reunification	56.1	51.6	49.9	52.6
Other	12.4	13.8	15.0	17.4
Missing data	0.8	1.9	3.0	0.2
Number	4,441	6,587	10,700	13,213

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8
Guardianship	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.6
Reunification	56.0	54.1	55.2	60.0
Other	39.9	41.3	39.0	36.3
Missing data	1.3	1.8	2.7	0.3
Number	11,795	11,150	11,393	10,927

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	34.7	36.2	43.3	45.3
Children older than 12 at entry	65.3	63.8	56.7	54.7
Missing data	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Number	4,489	4,046	4,011	4,486

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/American Indian				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	10.0	7.8	12.4	9.4	8.5	10.1	11.4	12.7	15.9	17.6	19.6	17.3
Guardianship	13.5	13.6	9.0	12.0	3.6	1.6	2.2	2.8	9.2	6.8	6.5	6.2
Reunification	58.0	58.3	59.3	60.4	76.5	75.5	72.1	76.0	54.9	52.0	50.1	52.1
Other	17.3	18.9	16.9	17.7	10.2	10.4	11.7	8.2	19.0	21.9	21.7	24.0
Missing data	1.2	1.4	2.5	0.6	1.1	2.4	2.6	0.3	1.1	1.6	2.1	0.4
Number	572	434	445	351	1,359	887	952	990	12,385	9,647	9,730	9,095

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	9.3	11.8	15.2	9.1	14.9	17.8	19.0	17.2	16.6	18.7	17.1	17.4
Guardianship	2.1	4.4	9.1	2.0	7.0	4.9	4.9	4.9	5.9	5.2	4.8	5.2
Reunification	71.1	69.1	67.0	76.8	63.8	61.2	59.6	65.2	62.4	59.4	60.2	62.3
Other	15.5	11.3	6.6	10.6	12.6	13.8	12.7	12.6	13.5	14.5	15.3	14.8
Missing data	2.1	3.4	2.0	1.5	1.7	2.3	3.8	0.1	1.5	2.1	2.5	0.3
Number	194	204	197	198	17,696	16,897	18,288	17,756	17,110	14,126	14,047	13,879

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	2.0	3.5	2.4	3.6	35.6	23.7	26.2	27.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	3.3	3.4	2.7	2.0	6.8	5.6	4.9	5.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	86.0	81.2	79.8	85.7	47.0	59.0	57.3	56.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	5.6	9.1	10.7	8.4	10.6	9.7	9.0	10.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	3.2	2.7	4.4	0.4	0.0	2.1	2.6	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	664	733	550	561	132	1,168	1,416	1,520	0	0	0	0

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	53.2	56.0	61.2	61.4
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	24.2	25.3	22.3	24.2
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	10.3	8.1	7.0	6.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	4.0	3.4	2.7	2.2
48 or more mos.	6.5	4.8	4.7	4.1
Missing data	1.8	2.3	2.2	1.7
Number	30,908	26,091	26,555	27,402

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	80.1	78.6	78.1	77.8
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	10.7	11.3	11.0	11.2
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	9.0	10.1	10.8	10.9
Missing data	0.2	<.1	<.1	<.1
Number	45,685	45,176	46,557	45,796

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	2.4	2.2	3.4	3.4
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	15.7	15.7	17.6	21.8
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	30.4	25.1	25.0	26.9
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	23.5	23.4	19.4	18.3
48 or more mos.	27.9	33.3	34.4	29.5
Missing data	0.2	0.3	0.3	<.1
Number	7,693	7,801	8,367	7,664

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	77.7	80.8	80.3	80.0	59.0	59.8	57.8	56.9	52.0	46.5	41.4	37.9	94.6	94.6	94.5	98.0
Children with 3 or more placements	22.2	19.1	19.6	20.0	41.0	40.1	42.1	43.1	48.0	53.4	58.6	62.1	5.4	5.4	5.5	1.9
Number	49,747	48,882	50,785	50,412	32,324	29,988	29,440	29,928	80,094	71,554	64,880	60,581	754	840	971	690

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	3.8	3.9	5.1	6.4
Institutions	9.8	10.0	8.7	6.4
Other settings	86.4	86.0	86.0	87.0
Missing data	<.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Number	32,668	32,040	32,521	32,164

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The following are California's comments on the State's data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2003: Report to Congress*.

Section C (Children in Foster Care): The decline in the number of children in foster care from 9/30/02 to 10/01/02 is due to the differences in reporting period and partly to late reporting of closures.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of California's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, 9.2 percent of the children in California who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). Although this exceeds the national median of 7.1 percent, it represents an improvement in performance on the measure from 2000 to 2003 (-14.0 percent change).

During the same time period, the child victim rate in California declined from 14.0 child victims per 1,000 children in the population in 2000 to 11.3 child victims per 1,000 children in the population in 2003.

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

In 2003, 0.20 percent of all children in foster care in California were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). This percent not only is less than the national median of 0.39, but also represents improvement in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (-41.2 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

California's performance with regard to outcome 3 varied as a function of the measure being assessed. In 2003, 84.3 percent of children exiting foster care were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.1), which is only slightly less than the national median of 86.3 percent. Also, 82.5 percent of the children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.2), which exceeds the median of 79.5 percent. In contrast, only 66.9 percent of the children exiting foster care in 2003 who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.3), which is less than the national median of 72.2 percent. However, performance on this measure exhibited a slight improvement from 2000 to 2003 (+7.8 percent change).

With regard to ensuring that children who are emancipated from foster care (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) do not spend most of their formative years in foster care, in 2003, 45.3 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4). This percent not only exceeds the national median of 29.6 percent, but also represents a decline in performance on the measure from 2000 to 2003 (+30.5 percent change).

There were some differences in exits to permanency as a function of children's race or ethnicity (measure 3.5). (This was assessed only when a particular race or ethnicity accounted for at least 10 percent of the exits from foster care.) In particular, Black (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care were less likely to exit to permanency (75.6 percent) than were White (non-Hispanic) children (84.9 percent), or Hispanic children (87.3 percent). In addition, the percent of Black children in the foster care population in 2003 (29.0 percent) was more than three times the percent of Black children in the State's child population (6.7 percent).

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, 61.4 percent of all reunifications in California occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1), which is less than the national median of 72.0 percent. Also in 2003, 6.3 percent of reunifications occurred after the child had been in foster care for at least 36 months, which exceeds the national median of 3.5 percent. However, performance on both measures exhibited improvement from 2000 to 2003. That is, the percent of reunifications occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care increased (+15.4 percent change), while the percent of reunifications occurring after a child had been in foster care for 36 months or more decreased (-40.0 percent change).

With regard to re-entry into foster care (measure 4.2), in 2003, 11.2 percent of children entering foster care were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode, which exceeds the median of 9.5 percent. Although performance on this measure did not change from 2000 to 2003, there was an overall increase in the total percent of children entering foster care who had been in foster care at a prior time (+12.2 percent change from 2000 to 2003). The data indicate that 22.1 percent of the children entering foster care in 2003 had been in foster care at a prior time, compared to 19.7 percent of the children entering foster care in 2000.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2003, 25.2 percent of all finalized adoptions in California occurred within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 5.1). This percentage not only exceeds the national median of 23.9 percent, but also represents a substantial improvement in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (39.2 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, 80.0 percent of the children in foster care in California for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings, which is slightly less than the national median of 84.2 percent (measure 6.1). In addition, 56.9 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months, experienced no more than two placement settings, which is less than the national median of 59.1 percent.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 12.8 percent of the children entering foster care in California who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). Although this percent exceeds the national median of 8.3 percent, it represents an improvement in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (-5.9 percent change).

Colorado [CONTEXT DATA]

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	1,107,306	1,136,972	1,146,872	1,152,751
Race/Ethnicity (%)¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Asian	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	4.3	4.6	4.3	4.2
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	23.5	24.0	23.9	24.7
White (non-Hispanic)	66.2	65.8	66.3	65.5
Two or more races	2.9	2.6	2.6	2.6
% Child population in poverty	10.9	10.6	12.5	11.9

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	7,467	4,837	7,570	8,137
Children in foster care on 9/30	7,533	7,138	9,209	8,754
Children adopted	711	749	992	1,024

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	35,483	32.0 per 1,000	30,983	27.2 per 1,000	40,552	35.4 per 1,000	43,217	37.5 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	7,467	6.7 per 1,000	4,837	4.2 per 1,000	7,570	6.6 per 1,000	8,137	7.1 per 1,000
Child fatalities	31	2.8 per 100,000	20	1.8 per 100,000	25	2.2 per 100,000	27	2.3 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	10.0	9.9	10.8	10.3
1-5 years	30.8	30.4	31.6	33.0
6-10 years	30.5	30.0	29.5	29.0
11-15 years	23.5	23.6	23.7	23.2
16+ years	4.7	5.4	4.3	4.5
Unknown	0.5	0.7	0.1	0.0
Number	7,467	4,837	7,570	8,137

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.2	1.8	1.0	0.6
Asian	0.8	1.3	1.0	0.7
Black (non-Hispanic)	7.0	10.2	8.7	7.8
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	21.4	30.0	34.3	34.0
White (non-Hispanic)	64.9	79.5	51.1	52.7
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	1.9	2.2
Unknown	4.6	0.0	2.0	1.8
Number	7,467	4,837	7,570	8,137

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	15.9	16.9	5.5	5.0
Medical neglect	71.4	1.3	1.6	1.4
Neglect	72.2	41.0	44.9	46.6
Physical abuse	26.8	25.1	25.0	21.5
Sexual abuse	14.4	11.2	11.8	11.5
Unknown/missing data	0.0	14.4	16.7	18.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	7,467	4,837	7,570	8,137

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	6,103	5,331	7,814	8,425	6,942	7,007	7,738	7,613	5,512	5,200	6,343	7,284	7,533	7,138	9,209	8,754
Median length of stay (months)	12.2	11.9	12.6	12.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.7	4.0	5.5	6.8	12.0	9.6	12.3	13.1

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	4.0	4.5	4.1	4.4	8.8	8.6	10.1	11.0	4.4	4.5	4.4	5.0	4.0	4.5	4.5	4.7
1 year	4.6	5.1	4.3	4.8	5.1	4.8	5.3	5.4	4.6	5.0	5.6	6.4	4.9	4.6	4.8	4.6
2 years	3.4	5.0	4.5	4.0	4.5	4.4	4.5	5.1	4.2	5.7	5.0	5.5	4.8	4.4	4.1	4.2
3 years	3.4	4.1	4.0	4.1	3.8	3.7	4.0	4.8	3.7	4.4	4.6	4.8	3.6	4.1	4.1	4.2
4 years	3.1	4.1	3.1	3.8	3.9	3.0	3.6	4.5	3.6	3.8	3.6	4.7	3.7	3.1	3.7	3.7
5 years	3.3	3.2	3.5	2.8	3.1	3.0	3.2	3.8	3.2	3.4	3.9	3.8	3.1	3.6	2.9	3.6
6 years	3.7	4.0	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.5	3.0	3.8	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.5	3.5	3.2	3.1	3.0
7 years	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.0	3.8	3.3	3.2	4.1	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.1	3.7
8 years	4.6	3.4	4.0	3.4	3.4	3.7	2.9	3.5	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.8	3.3	3.1
9 years	4.7	4.6	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.3	3.5	3.5	3.9	3.3	3.3	4.6	3.7	3.8	3.6
10 years	4.4	5.0	4.7	3.5	3.6	4.0	3.3	3.5	3.0	4.0	3.7	3.1	4.9	4.5	3.5	4.1
11 years	5.6	4.9	4.7	4.3	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.9	3.0	3.5	3.4	3.3	4.6	4.7	4.3	3.9
12 years	5.7	5.6	4.7	5.0	4.8	4.2	4.4	4.2	4.2	3.8	3.7	3.5	5.7	4.7	4.9	4.7
13 years	7.8	5.8	6.2	5.4	6.8	6.2	6.0	5.3	5.6	4.4	5.0	4.0	6.3	6.3	5.4	5.8
14 years	8.3	7.8	7.6	7.2	9.7	9.1	8.5	7.3	9.0	7.1	6.3	5.7	8.8	8.1	7.5	6.7
15 years	9.4	7.9	8.7	8.6	10.5	11.6	10.2	9.3	10.4	9.9	9.3	7.9	8.9	9.6	8.9	8.4
16 years	8.9	9.1	9.3	9.8	10.4	10.0	11.0	9.1	11.5	10.7	9.8	9.0	9.5	9.3	10.0	9.2
17 years	8.0	7.6	9.0	9.6	7.0	8.2	7.7	6.9	10.2	9.4	9.2	9.0	7.6	8.7	9.3	9.6
18 years	2.1	3.0	4.7	5.6	0.2	1.2	1.5	0.9	4.6	5.2	6.2	5.9	3.0	3.9	5.3	5.4
19 years	1.0	0.9	1.7	2.5	<.1	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.7	0.8	2.0	2.8	0.9	1.1	2.3	2.6
20 years	0.4	0.6	0.5	1.1	<.1	<.1	0.1	<.1	0.3	0.6	1.1	1.7	0.6	0.4	1.0	1.0
Missing data	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.3	0.2	<.1	0.2	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.1

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	2.7	2.1	1.6	1.3	2.0	1.5	0.9	0.9	2.7	1.9	1.2	0.9	2.1	1.7	1.2	1.3
Asian	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.4	1.0	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	16.3	16.8	15.0	12.9	11.1	12.8	11.2	9.6	10.3	13.8	13.3	10.7	15.9	15.1	12.9	12.0
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	25.5	28.1	31.5	32.2	28.7	31.0	34.3	36.0	27.9	30.2	33.3	35.2	26.7	29.4	32.6	33.0
White (non-Hispanic)	51.4	49.5	49.0	50.3	47.3	50.0	50.5	50.1	49.3	48.5	49.3	50.0	49.2	50.7	50.0	50.4
Two or more races	0.0	0.6	1.9	2.3	0.0	1.3	2.5	2.8	0.0	0.8	2.1	2.7	0.0	1.1	2.2	2.4
Unknown	3.3	2.3	0.4	0.2	10.0	2.2	<.1	<.1	8.9	3.8	<.1	<.1	5.4	1.1	0.3	0.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	<.1	<.1

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	1,776	1,445	1,886	1,492
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	1,252	647	1,072	757

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	2.0	4.0	4.6	2.9
1 year	5.4	7.6	8.2	7.1
2 years	7.2	7.0	7.6	7.3
3 years	5.9	8.4	7.3	5.7
4 years	5.5	5.9	7.0	6.1
5 years	4.9	6.6	5.5	6.2
6 years	5.9	5.5	5.8	5.0
7 years	6.5	7.5	6.2	5.6
8 years	6.0	6.1	6.0	6.0
9 years	8.0	5.5	6.1	5.8
10 years	9.0	7.8	5.4	6.7
11 years	6.3	7.6	7.1	5.1
12 years	7.7	5.1	6.4	6.2
13 years	6.1	4.8	5.0	6.9
14 years	5.3	3.7	4.6	6.1
15 years	4.4	3.0	3.7	4.6
16 years	2.6	2.1	1.9	3.4
17 years	0.9	1.2	1.1	2.3
18 years	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5
19 years	0.2	<.1	0.2	<.1
20+ years	0.1	<.1	<.1	0.2
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	2.3	1.3	1.3	0.7
Asian	0.3	0.3	<.1	0.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	20.6	18.9	16.4	16.4
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.1	<.1	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	30.5	31.4	33.0	32.7
White (non-Hispanic)	44.8	45.7	45.9	47.0
Two or more races	0.0	1.1	2.7	2.5
Unknown	1.5	1.1	0.4	0.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	711	749	992	1,024

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	3.0	3.1	1.5	2.4
1 year	10.4	10.4	11.8	15.4
2 years	10.5	12.1	10.9	12.3
3 years	10.7	12.1	9.4	11.2
4 years	10.1	7.3	9.9	8.9
5 years	6.9	7.5	7.0	8.2
6 years	5.8	6.1	7.2	4.6
7 years	8.3	5.5	5.5	5.9
8 years	5.3	6.3	5.6	4.9
9 years	6.2	6.0	4.6	4.1
10 years	6.3	5.5	6.5	4.4
11 years	4.6	5.9	5.4	4.8
12 years	4.1	4.0	4.5	4.6
13 years	3.2	2.7	3.5	2.6
14 years	1.5	2.3	2.5	2.8
15 years	0.8	1.5	1.4	0.6
16 years	1.1	1.1	1.7	1.6
17 years	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.4
18 years	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.3
19 years	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.8	2.0	1.7	1.2
Asian	0.7	0.7	0.5	<.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	16.6	18.3	18.1	13.9
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Hispanic (of any race)	28.3	28.8	31.0	35.9
White (non-Hispanic)	52.3	48.6	46.3	44.7
Two or more races	0.0	1.2	2.3	4.0
Unknown	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Colorado [OUTCOMES DATA]

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	—	—	96.7	97.0
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	3.3	3.0
Number	—	—	3,597	3,574

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	0.29	0.44
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	99.71	99.56
Number	—	—	14,218	14,443

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	3.1	9.3	13.6	13.1
Guardianship	1.3	2.3	2.6	3.6
Reunification	71.7	68.8	65.5	68.2
Other	16.2	14.6	14.1	13.7
Missing data	7.6	4.9	4.2	1.4
Number	5,512	5,200	6,343	7,284

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	3.6	8.5	19.4	17.0
Guardianship	0.8	2.2	2.1	2.2
Reunification	67.9	60.8	48.4	49.7
Other	21.9	23.7	22.2	28.6
Missing data	5.9	4.8	8.0	2.5
Number	1,793	1,568	1,683	1,297

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.4	1.4	0.8	1.0
Guardianship	0.8	1.8	1.5	1.6
Reunification	70.0	66.0	61.9	68.2
Other	28.6	28.1	27.3	27.0
Missing data	0.2	2.7	8.5	2.3
Number	2,615	2,288	2,825	2,978

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	18.7	22.9	16.4	19.5
Children older than 12 at entry	81.3	77.1	83.6	80.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	252	297	329	436

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	4.8	9.3	20.5	16.7	7.1	2.5	12.5	2.9	4.8	14.5	18.5	17.9
Guardianship	1.4	5.2	2.6	4.5	1.8	0.0	2.5	5.9	1.2	4.0	4.1	3.4
Reunification	70.1	63.9	60.3	57.6	76.8	75.0	72.5	61.8	66.4	59.5	56.6	60.8
Other	17.7	12.4	12.8	21.2	8.9	22.5	5.0	26.5	18.8	16.6	16.5	15.9
Missing data	6.1	9.3	3.8	0.0	5.4	0.0	7.5	2.9	8.8	5.4	4.3	2.1
Number	147	97	78	66	56	40	40	34	565	719	844	776

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.2	2.9	8.6	12.9	12.6	3.2	9.1	12.6	12.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.6	2.3	3.2	3.8	1.3	1.9	1.8	3.4
Reunification	0.0	100.0	100.0	44.4	70.9	69.0	65.2	69.1	70.7	70.4	68.2	69.8
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	16.0	14.3	13.6	12.8	16.6	14.5	13.7	13.7
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.5	5.9	5.1	1.6	8.2	4.0	3.6	1.2
Number	0	2	5	9	1,537	1,569	2,115	2,563	2,716	2,523	3,124	3,639

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.8	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.4	15.9	21.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.3	5.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	86.4	81.3	80.0	100.0	0.0	70.5	59.8	62.2	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0
Other	11.6	12.6	20.0	0.0	0.0	9.1	17.4	11.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.8	5.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.1	4.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	491	198	5	1	0	44	132	196	0	8	0	0

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	85.7	83.0	84.0	77.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	10.4	10.6	11.3	15.0
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1.7	2.4	1.8	3.6
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.9
48 or more mos.	1.0	0.9	0.5	0.9
Missing data	0.8	2.5	1.7	2.1
Number	3,954	3,579	4,152	4,968

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	69.8	67.9	63.8	71.2
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	19.3	20.9	18.5	17.4
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	10.4	10.8	11.7	10.7
Missing data	0.5	0.5	5.9	0.6
Number	6,942	7,007	7,738	7,613

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	24.9	24.9	11.8	15.6
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	36.4	26.6	33.8	38.0
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	22.0	20.6	25.3	25.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	6.9	10.3	14.0	10.7
48 or more mos.	9.8	6.6	13.6	9.3
Missing data	0.0	10.9	1.5	1.3
Number	173	485	865	957

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	86.9	79.1	79.9	80.6	57.7	50.0	54.8	53.1	32.2	24.6	38.6	37.2	100.0	70.3	69.8	72.0
Children with 3 or more placements	13.1	17.8	16.3	15.0	42.3	49.0	43.0	45.9	67.8	74.7	60.4	61.9	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0
Number	7,870	7,762	8,777	8,776	2,316	2,016	3,034	3,240	2,812	2,388	3,602	3,840	47	172	139	182

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	1.4	2.0	1.3	1.2
Institutions	5.7	10.6	13.5	10.0
Other settings	92.9	82.1	85.3	88.8
Missing data	0.0	5.3	0.0	0.0
Number	3,783	3,062	4,074	4,379

Colorado [STATE COMMENT]

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of Colorado's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, 3.0 percent of the children in Colorado who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percent is considerably less than the national median of 7.1 percent. Change in performance on this measure could not be assessed because Colorado did not report these data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) in 2000 or 2001.

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

In 2003, 0.44 percent (64 children) of children in foster care in Colorado were victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1), which exceeds the national median of 0.39 percent. Change in performance on this measure could not be assessed because Colorado did not report these data to NCANDS in 2000 or 2001.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

Colorado's performance with regard to outcome 3 varied as a function of the measure being assessed. In 2003, 84.9 percent of children exiting foster care were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.1), which is only slightly less than the national median of 86.3 percent. Similarly, 70.8 percent of the children exiting foster care in 2003 who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.3), which is slightly less than the national median of 72.2 percent. However, 68.9 percent of the children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.2), which is considerably less than the median of 79.5 percent.

With regard to ensuring that children who are emancipated from foster care (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) do not spend most of their formative years in foster care, in 2003, 19.5 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4). This percent is less than the national median of 29.6 percent. However, 772 of the children exiting foster care in 2003 were age 18 or older at the time of exit, while only 436 children were reported as having a discharge reason of emancipation.

There were no differences in exits to permanency as a function of children's race or ethnicity (measure 3.5). (This was assessed only when a particular race or ethnicity accounted for at least 10 percent of the exits from foster care.) Black (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care were about equally likely to exit to permanency (82.1 percent) as were White (non-Hispanic) children (85.2 percent) or Hispanic children (85.5 percent). However, the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the foster care population in 2003 (12.0 percent) far exceeded the percent of these children in the State's child population (4.2 percent). The percent of Hispanic children in the foster care population (33.0 percent) also exceeded the percent of Hispanic children in the State's child population (24.7 percent).

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, 77.5 percent of reunifications occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1). Although this percent exceeded the national median of 72.0 percent, performance on this measure declined from 2000 to 2003 (-9.6 percent change).

Although Colorado had a relatively high percent of reunifications in 2003 occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care, the State also had a relative high percent of children re-entering foster care. In 2003, 17.4 percent of children entering foster care were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (measure 4.2). This percent far exceeded the national median of 9.5 percent. However, performance on this measure improved from 2000 to 2003 (-9.8 percent change).

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2003, 53.6 percent of all finalized adoptions in Colorado occurred within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 5.1). Although this percent exceeds the national median of 23.9 percent, it represents a decline in performance on the measure from 2000 to 2003 (-12.6 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, 80.6 percent of the children in foster care in Colorado for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings (measure 6.1). This percent is not only less than the national median of 84.2 percent, but also represents a decline in performance from 2000 to 2003 (-7.2 percent change). In addition, 53.1 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months, experienced no more than two placement settings, which is less than the national median of 59.1 percent.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 11.2 percent of the children entering foster care in Colorado who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percent not only exceeds the national median of 8.3 percent, but also represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (+57.7 percent change).

Connecticut [CONTEXT DATA]

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	841,894	839,079	837,964	835,375
Race/Ethnicity (%)¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2
Asian	2.5	2.7	2.7	2.8
Black (non-Hispanic)	11.1	11.5	10.8	10.8
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	13.7	14.0	13.2	13.4
White (non-Hispanic)	69.6	69.5	71.1	70.7
Two or more races	2.5	2.1	1.9	2.0
% Child population in poverty	9.2	9.3	11.0	10.1

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	14,462	12,120	12,818	12,256
Children in foster care on 9/30	6,996	7,440	6,007	6,742
Children adopted	499	444	617	342

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	45,111	53.6 per 1,000	47,378	56.5 per 1,000	53,414	63.7 per 1,000	50,115	60.0 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	14,462	17.2 per 1,000	12,120	14.4 per 1,000	12,818	15.3 per 1,000	12,256	14.7 per 1,000
Child fatalities	8	0.9 per 100,000	8	0.9 per 100,000	9	1.1 per 100,000	6	0.7 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	9.2	10.0	9.3	9.2
1-5 years	29.8	29.2	29.6	29.0
6-10 years	30.3	28.6	28.7	28.2
11-15 years	25.6	27.0	26.9	27.9
16+ years	4.3	4.8	4.9	5.2
Unknown	0.9	0.4	0.6	0.4
Number	14,462	12,120	12,818	12,256

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Asian	1.0	0.8	0.6	0.6
Black (non-Hispanic)	23.9	24.8	24.3	23.8
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	24.7	26.2	26.0	25.7
White (non-Hispanic)	43.7	43.2	43.6	44.1
Two or more races	2.1	2.6	3.1	3.5
Unknown	4.5	2.3	2.3	2.0
Number	14,462	12,120	12,818	12,256

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	33.9	28.6	28.3	33.6
Medical neglect	3.5	3.2	3.0	3.1
Neglect	60.2	64.6	68.8	68.1
Physical abuse	14.8	14.2	12.1	11.5
Sexual abuse	3.8	3.9	4.3	4.5
Unknown/missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.2
Other	2.7	2.6	2.1	0.9
Number	14,462	12,120	12,818	12,256

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	6,636	6,635	6,157	5,755	2,763	2,713	2,763	3,130	2,368	1,943	2,787	2,143	6,996	7,440	6,007	6,742
Median length of stay (months)	25.1	25.7	29.3	21.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	18.0	19.4	17.4	12.1	24.6	25.2	28.2	20.0

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	3.2	2.8	2.9	3.5	13.6	12.9	13.3	13.7	4.8	3.6	4.1	5.2	2.9	3.0	3.5	3.7
1 year	4.5	4.3	3.8	4.4	6.2	6.1	6.3	5.8	5.4	5.2	5.5	5.9	4.1	3.8	4.0	4.7
2 years	4.7	4.8	4.5	3.9	5.1	5.6	5.0	5.3	6.0	6.3	5.6	6.0	4.6	4.6	3.7	4.4
3 years	4.9	4.7	4.7	4.5	4.3	4.6	5.1	5.4	6.5	5.8	6.6	5.6	4.3	4.6	4.0	4.1
4 years	4.7	4.4	4.2	3.8	4.3	4.9	5.4	5.1	6.3	6.0	6.5	5.7	4.0	4.3	4.0	4.1
5 years	5.3	4.5	4.2	3.6	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.0	6.5	4.9	5.0	5.5	4.0	4.2	3.7	3.6
6 years	5.2	5.1	4.0	3.5	3.9	4.3	3.9	4.3	5.8	6.1	5.0	4.9	4.5	4.1	3.7	3.3
7 years	5.7	5.3	4.8	3.7	4.6	4.2	3.6	3.3	5.6	4.6	4.6	4.4	4.8	4.7	3.7	3.2
8 years	6.1	5.5	5.1	4.4	3.8	3.5	4.3	3.6	5.8	4.7	5.2	3.8	5.1	5.0	4.2	3.7
9 years	5.4	5.9	5.3	4.6	4.5	3.3	3.8	3.9	5.2	4.1	4.9	4.3	5.4	4.9	4.7	4.1
10 years	5.1	5.8	5.9	4.8	4.1	5.0	3.7	4.4	4.8	4.0	3.7	3.8	5.0	5.8	4.9	4.5
11 years	5.3	5.4	5.6	5.6	4.4	3.5	3.9	4.8	3.9	4.5	4.2	4.9	5.0	5.5	6.0	5.0
12 years	5.0	6.0	5.3	5.7	4.8	4.5	5.0	5.1	3.8	4.5	3.9	3.7	5.6	5.1	5.5	5.7
13 years	5.5	6.0	6.9	6.4	6.8	6.4	6.4	6.6	3.6	3.7	4.2	5.1	5.7	6.5	6.1	6.1
14 years	7.2	6.8	7.0	8.5	9.0	9.1	8.3	8.2	4.6	5.1	4.7	4.4	6.8	7.0	8.2	7.5
15 years	8.0	8.5	9.3	9.7	10.7	12.1	11.1	10.3	3.8	5.9	7.2	6.2	9.3	8.7	8.8	9.8
16 years	6.7	6.6	7.7	9.2	4.3	4.6	5.6	4.4	6.9	10.0	9.9	9.7	8.9	8.4	9.3	9.4
17 years	3.8	4.0	4.5	5.2	0.9	1.4	1.3	1.5	4.1	4.3	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.5	6.6
18 years	2.1	1.8	2.0	2.3	0.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	3.7	4.2	2.2	3.0	2.6	2.5	3.3	3.4
19 years	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.4	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	1.5	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.1	1.6	1.5
20 years	0.3	0.4	0.8	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.8	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.9
Missing data	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.2	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.9	0.3	0.3	0.9	0.6

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	<.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.1	<.1	0.1	<.1	<.1	0.2	0.2	<.1	0.1	<.1	0.1
Asian	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.6	1.0	0.3	1.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	37.7	37.3	36.1	34.4	32.0	30.3	29.8	29.5	33.7	33.8	30.1	30.1	36.7	35.6	35.9	33.4
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	25.7	25.0	26.1	27.4	26.2	27.6	28.1	28.8	28.0	27.1	27.3	27.2	25.1	25.4	26.5	28.1
White (non-Hispanic)	32.3	33.4	33.2	33.4	35.4	35.3	35.8	35.9	32.1	33.0	36.8	36.5	33.6	34.2	32.8	33.6
Two or more races	2.7	2.8	3.3	3.6	3.3	3.9	3.7	3.4	3.1	3.2	4.0	3.5	2.8	3.1	3.2	3.5
Unknown	1.3	1.0	1.0	0.8	2.4	1.0	2.1	1.7	2.4	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.3	0.9	1.4	1.0
Missing data	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	—	—	1,036	1,310
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	—	—	589	678

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	—	—	2.8	2.7
1 year	—	—	7.2	6.8
2 years	—	—	7.2	8.8
3 years	—	—	7.3	6.9
4 years	—	—	5.3	7.6
5 years	—	—	4.7	5.0
6 years	—	—	5.0	5.5
7 years	—	—	5.6	5.6
8 years	—	—	7.0	5.9
9 years	—	—	6.9	7.7
10 years	—	—	8.6	7.2
11 years	—	—	8.0	6.6
12 years	—	—	6.1	6.3
13 years	—	—	5.4	5.0
14 years	—	—	6.7	4.7
15 years	—	—	3.9	4.4
16 years	—	—	1.2	2.2
17 years	—	—	0.9	0.6
18 years	—	—	0.2	0.3
19 years	—	—	0.0	<.1
20+ years	—	—	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	<.1	0.2
Asian	—	—	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	—	—	33.9	33.2
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	—	—	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	—	—	28.2	29.6
White (non-Hispanic)	—	—	32.1	30.4
Two or more races	—	—	5.3	6.3
Unknown	—	—	0.4	0.3
Missing data	—	—	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	499	444	617	342

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	0.4	0.7	0.5	0.6
1 year	4.2	7.4	5.0	8.2
2 years	8.0	12.4	8.6	12.9
3 years	12.2	13.3	13.0	11.1
4 years	13.2	12.4	10.5	9.1
5 years	8.8	9.2	7.8	6.1
6 years	10.4	8.6	7.1	7.3
7 years	7.4	6.5	7.5	6.1
8 years	8.2	6.3	9.1	7.3
9 years	6.4	5.2	8.6	7.3
10 years	5.8	5.0	5.0	4.1
11 years	3.4	5.2	6.2	8.8
12 years	5.0	1.8	4.4	3.8
13 years	1.8	2.0	3.7	2.0
14 years	2.6	1.6	1.6	1.2
15 years	0.6	1.4	0.6	2.6
16 years	1.0	1.1	0.8	1.2
17 years	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.3
18 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	30.9	32.2	27.4	25.4
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	18.4	31.1	26.1	31.0
White (non-Hispanic)	38.3	28.2	35.3	34.8
Two or more races	0.0	8.1	9.9	8.2
Unknown	12.4	0.5	1.3	0.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Connecticut [OUTCOMES DATA]

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	88.6	89.0	88.2	89.9
Children with one or more recurrences	11.4	11.0	11.8	10.1
Number	6,905	5,328	5,730	5,331

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	20.1	21.0	22.3	15.5
Guardianship	5.9	5.0	4.3	5.4
Reunification	67.1	54.7	67.7	73.8
Other	6.9	6.8	5.6	5.2
Missing data	<.1	12.6	<.1	<.1
Number	2,368	1,943	2,787	2,143

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	25.8	20.9	20.1	16.7
Guardianship	2.2	3.2	2.1	4.3
Reunification	63.8	51.2	69.5	70.3
Other	8.2	10.6	8.1	8.7
Missing data	0.0	14.1	0.2	0.0
Number	279	340	816	630

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2
Guardianship	3.4	2.4	1.6	2.4
Reunification	72.9	64.9	84.4	87.2
Other	23.4	19.1	13.8	10.2
Missing data	0.2	13.7	0.0	0.0
Number	531	498	751	580

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	26.4	31.3	37.5	43.5
Children older than 12 at entry	73.6	68.8	59.4	54.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	3.1	2.2
Number	53	32	32	46

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/American Indian				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	20.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	19.9	20.2	21.7	16.3
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.8	5.9	6.4	7.3
Reunification	100.0	100.0	80.0	50.0	92.9	73.7	100.0	100.0	66.9	56.5	66.9	71.4
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.3	5.9	4.8	5.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	26.3	0.0	0.0	0.1	11.4	0.1	0.0
Number	2	1	5	4	14	19	9	23	798	657	838	646

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	18.8	21.5	21.4	14.1	21.6	22.4	23.4	15.9
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.3	3.8	3.0	5.0	5.3	5.3	3.7	4.3
Reunification	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	70.3	54.2	70.2	76.8	63.7	52.3	65.9	72.8
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.6	6.8	5.3	4.0	9.5	7.9	7.0	7.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.7	0.1	0.2	0.0	12.0	0.0	0.0
Number	0	1	0	1	664	526	761	582	760	642	1,025	782

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	15.8	12.9	0.0	3.3	24.7	22.2	31.5	25.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	7.0	6.5	0.0	3.3	8.2	3.2	4.5	6.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	73.7	71.0	100.0	93.3	65.8	50.8	60.4	66.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	3.5	3.2	0.0	0.0	1.4	7.9	3.6	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	6.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0
Number	57	31	38	30	73	63	111	75	0	3	0	0

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	49.3	40.5	48.8	60.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	23.5	24.8	22.6	21.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	7.7	11.9	6.8	6.0
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	6.4	6.2	4.7	2.8
48 or more mos.	5.5	8.3	7.1	6.3
Missing data	7.7	8.4	10.0	3.2
Number	1,590	1,062	1,888	1,581

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	88.3	85.4	83.6	83.6
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	6.7	5.2	8.6	7.0
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	4.7	9.1	7.0	8.3
Missing data	0.4	0.3	0.8	1.1
Number	2,763	2,713	2,763	3,130

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	0.6	1.0	1.6	0.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	5.9	11.3	9.0	12.0
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	15.8	20.6	20.1	30.9
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	32.8	20.6	20.9	21.6
48 or more mos.	44.6	46.1	48.3	34.5
Missing data	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.0
Number	475	408	621	333

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	91.3	98.4	87.7	85.4	70.9	93.8	67.5	64.5	48.3	92.2	33.9	36.8	87.1	77.3	80.8	94.2
Children with 3 or more placements	8.2	1.5	12.2	14.1	26.3	5.5	28.5	32.7	43.1	7.3	46.2	59.5	12.9	16.0	18.3	5.8
Number	2,901	2,863	2,787	3,420	1,871	1,754	1,483	1,756	4,464	4,656	4,316	3,640	163	75	334	69

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	2.2	3.9	3.1	3.4
Institutions	14.6	23.8	18.7	15.9
Other settings	83.3	72.2	78.0	79.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.1	1.0
Number	1,807	1,751	1,752	2,103

Connecticut [STATE COMMENT]

Darlene Dunbar, Commissioner
Connecticut Department of Children and Families

The following are Connecticut's comments on the State's data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2003: Report to Congress*.

We are currently analyzing data quality issues in consultation with ACF and expect some changes to our AFCARS program that will increase the reliability of the logic that determines admissions, discharges and the number of adoptions.

Other improvements to our SACWIS have begun. As of June 26, 2005, we now have the ability to identify the relationship between a perpetrator and victim. We will soon begin to change the NCANDS logic in order to make it possible for us to report on those maltreated in foster care.

Additionally, we are in the planning stages of a significant system improvement known as the Placement and Legal Streamlining (PALS) initiative. PALS will put in place a long-term solution to data quality issues by streamlining the way that legal and placement data are recorded in our SACWIS, eliminating missing removals and discharges ("dropped cases"), preventing gaps in placement and ensuring that the legal status of children is logically tied to placement episodes (at the point of data entry).

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of Connecticut's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, 10.1 percent of the children in Connecticut who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). Although this percentage exceeds the national median of 7.1 percent, performance on this measure improved from 2000 to 2003 (-11.4 percent change). The child victim rate also decreased from 17.2 child victims per 1,000 children in the population in 2000 to 14.7 child victims per 1,000 children in the population in 2003.

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

Connecticut's performance on outcome 2 cannot be assessed because the State does not provide data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) for calculating this outcome. To ensure consistency across States, the Report to Congress presents only data submitted through NCANDS.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003, 94.7 percent of children exiting foster care in Connecticut were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.1), which exceeds the national median of 86.3 percent. Similarly, 91.3 percent of the children exiting foster care in 2003 who had a diagnosed disability were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.2), which far exceeds the national median of 79.5 percent. Finally, 89.8 percent of the children exiting foster care in 2003 who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.3), which exceeds the national median of 72.2 percent.

However, 43.5 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care in 2003 (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4). This percent not only exceeds the national median of 29.6 percent, but also represents a decline in performance from 2000 to 2003 (+64.8 percent change). Also in 2003, 98 of the children exiting foster care were age 18 or older at the time of exit, while only 46 children were reported as having a discharge reason of emancipation.

There were no differences in exits to permanency as a function of children's race or ethnicity (measure 3.5). (This was assessed only when a particular race or ethnicity accounted for at least 10 percent of the exits from foster care.) Black (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care were as likely to be discharged to a permanent home (95.0 percent) as were White (non-Hispanic) children (93.0 percent) or Hispanic children (95.9 percent). However, the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the foster care population in 2003 (33.4 percent) was more than three times larger than the percent of Black children in the State's child population (10.8 percent). Also, the percent of Hispanic children in the foster care population (28.1 percent) was more than twice as large as the percent of Hispanic children in the State's child population (13.4 percent).

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, 60.5 percent of reunifications occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1). Although this percent was less than the national median of 72.0 percent, performance on the measure improved from 2000 to 2003 (+22.7 percent change). Similarly, while the percentage of reunifications occurring after a child had been in foster care for 36 months or longer (9.1 percent) exceeded the national median of 3.5 percent, performance on this measure also improved from 2000 to 2003 (-23.5 percent change).

Although Connecticut had a relatively low percentage of children reunified within 12 months of entry into foster care, the State also had a relatively low percentage of children re-entering care within 12 months of a prior episode. In 2003, 7.0 percent of the children entering foster care were re-entering within 12 months of a prior foster care episode (measure 4.2), which is less than the national median of 9.5 percent.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2003, 12.9 percent of adoptions occurred within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 5.1). Although this percent was less than the national median of 23.9 percent, performance on this measure improved from 2000 to 2003 (+98.5 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, 85.4 percent of children in foster care for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings (measure 6.1). Although this percent exceeded the national median of 84.2 percent, it represents a decline in performance from 2000 to 2003 (-6.5 percent change). Also in 2003, 64.5 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months, experienced no more than two placement settings. Again, although this percent exceeds the national median of 59.1 percent, it represents a decline in performance from 2000 to 2003 (-9.0 percent change). However, it is important to note that Connecticut's performance on measure 6.1 is somewhat difficult to interpret because of extreme variations in performance over the years that may indicate a data quality issue rather than an actual performance change.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 19.3 percent of the children entering foster care in Connecticut who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percent not only exceeds the national median of 8.3 percent, but also represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (+14.9 percent change).

Delaware [CONTEXT DATA]

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	194,132	190,940	195,068	198,842
Race/Ethnicity (%)¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2
Asian	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	23.7	23.7	22.9	22.7
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	7.0	7.2	7.1	7.4
White (non-Hispanic)	64.2	64.3	65.2	65.0
Two or more races	2.5	2.3	2.3	2.4
% Child population in poverty	16.9	9.3	12.6	11.0

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	1,813	1,666	1,304	1,236
Children in foster care on 9/30	1,098	1,023	886	814
Children adopted	103	117	133	101

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	8,683	44.7 per 1,000	8,437	44.2 per 1,000	8,042	41.2 per 1,000	12,497	62.8 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	1,813	9.3 per 1,000	1,666	8.7 per 1,000	1,304	6.7 per 1,000	1,236	6.2 per 1,000
Child fatalities	0	0.0 per 100,000	2	1.0 per 100,000	—	— per 100,000	—	— per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	8.9	9.1	9.3	8.1
1-5 years	26.5	25.9	30.2	30.2
6-10 years	31.5	30.5	29.1	31.5
11-15 years	25.5	26.2	24.9	24.1
16+ years	7.6	8.2	6.4	6.1
Unknown	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0
Number	1,813	1,666	1,304	1,236

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
Asian	0.3	0.2	0.2	1.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	44.1	46.3	48.2	46.3
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3
Hispanic (of any race)	7.0	9.5	8.5	7.5
White (non-Hispanic)	48.3	43.7	42.8	44.5
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.3
Number	1,813	1,666	1,304	1,236

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	18.7	19.3	20.6	22.6
Medical neglect	3.5	1.9	3.3	4.0
Neglect	32.0	31.1	41.3	36.5
Physical abuse	20.5	22.3	21.1	25.1
Sexual abuse	9.4	9.7	8.7	12.4
Unknown/missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	16.0	15.7	14.2	6.6
Number	1,813	1,666	1,304	1,236

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	1,033	1,000	895	761	950	939	918	861	886	916	928	810	1,098	1,023	886	814
Median length of stay (months)	14.1	14.7	15.1	13.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.4	4.6	4.6	3.0	13.7	13.3	11.9	11.3

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	4.4	4.3	4.1	4.1	10.0	9.5	8.5	8.8	4.5	4.4	3.0	3.8	3.9	3.8	4.1	4.5
1 year	5.2	5.8	4.9	6.8	3.1	3.1	4.0	4.4	3.8	4.4	3.2	4.8	5.2	4.4	6.3	5.4
2 years	5.8	4.5	4.8	5.1	3.1	2.3	2.8	2.3	4.6	3.5	3.8	4.1	4.1	4.6	4.5	5.0
3 years	4.6	4.4	3.6	4.2	3.9	2.8	2.4	2.3	5.1	4.4	2.5	3.5	4.2	3.5	4.2	3.9
4 years	4.5	4.6	4.1	3.7	2.4	3.2	2.8	2.0	3.3	3.5	3.1	2.6	3.9	3.9	3.5	2.9
5 years	4.9	3.5	3.9	3.9	2.5	2.3	2.3	2.3	3.8	3.1	3.7	3.2	3.4	3.6	3.5	2.3
6 years	4.9	4.2	3.1	2.5	2.8	2.6	2.5	2.2	3.5	3.7	3.6	2.2	4.0	2.8	2.4	3.4
7 years	5.2	5.0	4.0	2.6	2.2	2.6	1.5	2.1	2.7	2.9	2.7	2.3	4.8	3.6	2.6	2.6
8 years	4.9	4.4	5.1	2.6	3.8	2.8	1.9	2.3	3.5	2.8	3.6	1.6	4.3	4.7	2.4	2.9
9 years	4.5	5.5	4.8	3.4	2.9	3.2	1.7	2.4	3.6	3.5	3.0	2.7	5.0	4.3	3.0	2.7
10 years	4.8	4.5	5.5	4.5	3.4	3.2	2.4	2.8	3.5	3.4	3.9	2.8	4.3	5.2	4.1	3.3
11 years	4.1	5.4	4.0	4.9	2.7	2.6	2.2	1.6	2.1	2.9	1.9	1.7	5.0	3.6	4.4	4.3
12 years	3.2	4.4	5.4	4.5	3.5	2.1	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.3	3.0	2.5	4.3	5.1	4.1	4.5
13 years	4.7	4.3	5.6	5.9	4.7	5.1	4.2	6.2	2.0	2.5	3.2	4.4	4.6	5.4	6.2	5.3
14 years	6.2	5.9	6.0	7.4	9.6	9.3	8.5	9.8	5.8	6.3	5.9	6.9	7.0	6.7	7.8	8.1
15 years	7.1	7.8	8.2	8.5	11.6	13.6	16.0	12.7	9.9	9.9	11.7	9.3	8.4	9.4	9.4	11.2
16 years	9.2	9.7	9.6	11.4	14.0	13.8	18.4	15.7	10.9	11.0	13.3	14.0	10.5	11.6	13.3	11.5
17 years	9.3	9.2	10.6	11.4	12.6	14.1	13.5	16.5	13.4	14.1	15.7	18.1	10.4	10.5	12.2	12.8
18 years	2.0	2.5	2.5	2.4	1.2	1.9	1.3	0.8	10.5	10.9	8.6	8.8	2.7	3.0	2.0	2.8
19 years	<.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.6	<.1	0.2	0.1	0.2
20 years	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	<.1	0.0	0.1	0.1
Asian	<.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.1	<.1	<.1	0.1	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	61.9	62.0	61.2	61.4	61.4	57.1	57.4	57.1	59.8	57.8	56.0	58.6	63.0	61.3	62.8	59.7
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	7.6	8.0	6.8	6.7	5.6	7.7	8.9	6.5	5.6	9.3	9.7	6.7	7.5	6.5	6.0	6.5
White (non-Hispanic)	30.2	29.9	31.8	31.9	32.7	35.0	33.0	35.9	34.1	32.8	33.7	34.3	29.3	32.1	31.0	33.7
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	334	319	210	144
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	181	192	135	84

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	2.4	4.4	2.9	4.2
1 year	7.8	7.5	13.3	9.0
2 years	8.4	7.8	8.6	9.7
3 years	8.7	5.6	8.1	11.1
4 years	6.0	7.2	7.1	5.6
5 years	6.0	6.0	7.1	5.6
6 years	7.5	4.7	4.8	6.3
7 years	9.6	7.5	2.9	4.2
8 years	7.8	7.5	7.1	4.9
9 years	8.1	7.5	5.2	6.3
10 years	8.4	9.1	6.7	4.9
11 years	7.8	6.3	5.7	6.9
12 years	4.8	8.8	5.2	6.3
13 years	2.7	4.7	8.6	6.3
14 years	2.7	2.2	3.8	2.8
15 years	0.6	2.5	2.9	4.2
16 years	0.6	0.3	0.0	2.1
17 years	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0
18 years	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	67.7	62.4	61.0	63.2
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	6.3	5.3	3.8	3.5
White (non-Hispanic)	26.0	32.3	35.2	33.3
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	103	117	133	101

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	0.0	1.7	0.0	0.0
1 year	8.7	11.1	3.0	13.9
2 years	17.5	9.4	12.8	17.8
3 years	13.6	13.7	8.3	9.9
4 years	9.7	7.7	9.8	10.9
5 years	8.7	9.4	3.8	9.9
6 years	3.9	8.5	5.3	5.0
7 years	5.8	8.5	7.5	4.0
8 years	9.7	4.3	10.5	2.0
9 years	7.8	7.7	7.5	7.9
10 years	4.9	6.8	7.5	4.0
11 years	4.9	3.4	6.8	5.0
12 years	2.9	2.6	6.8	4.0
13 years	1.0	2.6	4.5	3.0
14 years	1.0	0.9	1.5	1.0
15 years	0.0	0.9	3.8	2.0
16 years	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0
17 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
18 years	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	55.3	61.5	60.9	52.5
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	3.9	10.3	9.8	7.9
White (non-Hispanic)	38.8	28.2	29.3	39.6
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Delaware [OUTCOMES DATA]

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	97.0	97.2	98.8	97.0
Children with one or more recurrences	3.0	2.8	1.2	3.0
Number	922	1,058	737	675

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	0.11	0.12	0.14
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	99.89	99.88	99.86
Number	—	1,750	1,627	1,419

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	10.9	13.0	14.7	13.0
Guardianship	1.8	3.3	4.4	3.8
Reunification	79.3	76.5	72.7	72.2
Other	7.9	7.1	8.2	11.0
Missing data	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Number	886	916	928	810

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	12.8	12.2	29.6	21.7
Guardianship	3.8	8.1	8.5	10.1
Reunification	67.9	55.4	49.3	42.0
Other	15.4	24.3	12.7	26.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	78	74	71	69

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.2
Guardianship	0.4	0.9	0.6	0.8
Reunification	85.5	87.7	86.1	82.9
Other	14.1	11.3	12.9	16.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	447	470	505	473

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	10.9	24.0	14.3	16.4
Children older than 12 at entry	87.0	76.0	84.3	80.6
Missing data	2.2	0.0	1.4	3.0
Number	46	50	70	67

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/American Indian				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	13.6	15.4	12.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	2.3	4.4	4.0
Reunification	100.0	50.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	81.3	78.1	72.1	70.7
Other	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.4	5.9	8.1	13.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0
Number	2	2	1	1	0	0	3	1	530	529	520	475

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.0	16.5	11.1	14.8	13.2	11.0	14.7	14.4
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	8.2	4.4	0.0	2.6	3.7	4.5	4.3
Reunification	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	88.0	67.1	75.6	79.6	74.5	76.7	72.5	73.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	8.2	8.9	5.6	9.6	8.7	8.3	8.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	0	0	1	0	50	85	90	54	302	300	313	278

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	50.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	83.6	86.0	85.2	92.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	11.2	9.0	11.0	5.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	2.6	2.0	1.0	0.5
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.4	1.7	0.9	0.9
48 or more mos.	0.9	0.9	1.5	0.9
Missing data	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.2
Number	703	701	675	585

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	69.2	71.4	63.4	62.7
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	16.5	16.8	24.1	23.5
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	11.4	11.1	10.8	12.9
Missing data	2.9	0.7	1.7	0.9
Number	950	939	918	861

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	1.0	1.7	2.9	4.8
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	18.6	16.0	11.0	27.6
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	36.1	30.3	31.6	29.5
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	21.6	25.2	30.1	21.0
48 or more mos.	22.7	26.9	24.3	17.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	97	119	136	105

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	97.3	96.2	98.3	97.7	84.2	80.9	77.3	78.7	67.0	62.0	52.8	49.6	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	2.7	3.8	1.7	2.3	15.8	19.1	22.7	21.3	33.0	38.0	47.2	50.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,136	1,117	1,057	1,007	323	298	278	244	521	521	470	365	3	3	8	6

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	0.9	3.8	5.2	3.7
Institutions	5.9	2.8	1.4	2.4
Other settings	92.7	93.2	93.1	93.3
Missing data	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.6
Number	438	395	347	327

Delaware [STATE COMMENT]

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of Delaware's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, 3.0 percent of the children in Delaware who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period, which is less than the national median of 7.1 percent (measure 1.1). Although performance on this measure did not change from 2000 to 2003, the rate of child victims in the State changed considerably over that time period from 9.3 child victims per 1,000 children in the population in 2000 to 6.2 child victims per 1,000 children in the population in 2003.

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

In 2003, 0.14 percent of children in foster care were found to be the victims of substantiated or indicated maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member (measure 2.1). Although this percent is less than the national median of 0.39 percent, performance on the measure declined from 2000 to 2003 (+27.3 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003, 89.0 percent of children exiting foster care were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.1), which exceeds the national median of 86.3 percent. In addition, 83.9 percent of the children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care were discharged to a permanent home, which exceeds the national median of 72.2 percent (measure 3.3). In contrast, 73.8 percent of the children exiting foster care in 2003 who had a diagnosed disability were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.2), which is less than the national median of 79.5 percent.

With regard to ensuring that children who are emancipated from foster care (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) do not spend most of their formative years in foster care, in 2003, 16.4 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4). Although this percent is less than the national median of 29.6 percent, it represents a decline in performance on the measure from 2000 to 2003 (+50.5 percent change).

There was a slight difference in exits to permanency as a function of children's race or ethnicity (measure 3.5). In particular, Black (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care were somewhat less likely to exit to permanency (86.7 percent) than were White (non-Hispanic) children (91.7 percent). In addition, the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the foster care population in 2003 (59.7 percent) was more than twice the percent of these children in the State's child population (22.7 percent).

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, 92.3 percent of all reunifications in the State occurred within 12 months of the child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1). This percent not only far exceeds the national median of 72.0 percent, but also represents improved performance on the measure from 2000 to 2003 (+10.4 percent change).

However, Delaware's high percentage of reunifications in 2003 occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was matched by an equally high percentage of re-entries into foster care. In 2003, 23.5 percent of the children entering foster care were re-entering within 12 months of a prior foster care episode (measure 4.2). This percent not only far exceeds the national median of 9.5 percent, but also represents a decline in performance on the measure from 2000 to 2003 (+42.4 percent change). The findings regarding re-entries of children that occurred more than 12 months from a prior foster care episode are similar. Overall, 36.4 percent of the children who entered foster care in 2003 had been in foster care at a prior time.

Delaware's high foster care re-entry rate may be due to the fact that 33 percent of the children entering foster care in 2003 were age 16 or older at the time of entry. A cross-State analysis of State performance on this measure found a substantial positive relationship (Pearson's $r = 0.49$) between State re-entry percentages and the percentage of children entering foster care who were age 16 and older.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2003, 32.4 percent of adoptions in Delaware occurred within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 5.1). This percent not only exceeds the national median of 23.9 percent, but also represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (+65.3 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, 97.7 percent of children in foster care in Delaware for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings (measure 6.1), which exceeds the national median of 84.2 percent. In addition, 78.7 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months but less than 24 months experienced no more than two placement settings, which exceeds the national median of 59.1 percent. Performance on this latter measure also exhibited improvement from 2000 to 2003 (+6.5 percent change).

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 6.1 percent of the children entering foster care in Delaware who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percent not only is less than the national median of 8.3 percent, but also represents an improvement in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (-10.3 percent change).

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	114,646	111,843	109,554	108,403
Race/Ethnicity (%)¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	1.5	1.9	1.8	1.9
Black (non-Hispanic)	74.3	72.4	70.5	68.8
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	9.9	10.6	10.5	10.9
White (non-Hispanic)	11.9	13.2	15.4	16.4
Two or more races	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.7
% Child population in poverty	23.4	30.8	33.0	31.5

Child Welfare Summary

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	2,911	2,908	3,032	2,518
Children in foster care on 9/30	3,054	3,339	3,321	3,092
Children adopted	319	231	253	240

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information

	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	7,578	66.1 per 1,000	7,332	65.6 per 1,000	8,243	75.2 per 1,000	11,000	101.5 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	2,911	25.4 per 1,000	2,908	26.0 per 1,000	3,032	27.7 per 1,000	2,518	23.2 per 1,000
Child fatalities	5	4.4 per 100,000	9	8.1 per 100,000	7	6.4 per 100,000	6	5.5 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	7.8	9.2	9.4	10.8
1-5 years	30.0	28.2	25.8	25.2
6-10 years	33.8	31.5	31.5	29.4
11-15 years	21.7	24.2	26.6	28.4
16+ years	6.7	6.9	6.6	6.2
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	2,911	2,908	3,032	2,518

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)⁴

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.5	0.0	0.3	0.6
Black (non-Hispanic)	68.3	70.6	52.2	55.9
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	3.6	2.6	2.6	2.4
White (non-Hispanic)	1.4	0.5	0.6	0.4
Two or more races	0.0	0.3	0.4	0.4
Unknown	24.0	26.0	43.9	40.3
Number	2,911	2,908	3,032	2,518

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁵

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	14.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Medical neglect	2.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Neglect	68.0	85.2	79.2	82.3
Physical abuse	13.4	17.3	22.9	19.5
Sexual abuse	6.4	3.8	5.3	4.9
Unknown/missing data	23.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	25.8	0.3	0.1	0.0
Number	2,911	2,908	3,032	2,518

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	2,594	2,907	2,905	3,130	775	822	812	719	315	390	396	757	3,054	3,339	3,321	3,092
Median length of stay (months)	22.4	28.5	31.8	38.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15.8	18.7	10.8	36.4	27.4	32.6	37.2	42.8

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	1.3	1.3	1.7	1.5	12.3	12.5	11.6	12.2	2.9	3.3	4.8	2.5	1.5	1.9	1.6	1.6
1 year	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.6	6.5	7.2	6.5	5.7	4.1	3.8	4.5	2.5	3.0	2.7	2.7	2.6
2 years	4.1	3.4	3.4	3.0	5.8	6.0	5.7	5.6	2.9	2.8	4.3	4.0	3.5	3.5	3.0	3.0
3 years	4.5	4.3	4.1	3.6	5.7	4.9	5.0	5.6	7.6	5.6	4.5	5.3	4.3	4.1	3.6	3.2
4 years	4.2	4.5	4.3	4.7	5.0	5.6	4.7	4.5	4.8	4.9	3.3	5.5	4.6	4.5	4.6	3.6
5 years	5.7	4.9	4.7	4.7	7.0	4.9	5.3	4.5	6.3	5.6	5.3	5.4	4.7	4.5	4.3	4.2
6 years	5.2	5.7	4.8	5.0	7.9	5.0	5.8	4.5	6.0	4.9	5.3	5.7	5.7	4.7	4.8	4.6
7 years	6.1	6.0	5.5	5.4	6.2	5.8	4.6	4.7	3.5	7.9	3.8	6.5	6.1	5.7	4.9	4.6
8 years	5.8	6.2	6.0	5.8	5.2	4.7	4.7	5.1	7.3	4.1	5.1	6.3	5.7	5.8	5.3	5.1
9 years	6.1	6.2	6.5	5.8	6.1	6.0	5.0	4.6	6.0	4.6	7.8	6.9	6.0	6.1	5.8	5.3
10 years	5.4	6.5	6.0	6.4	6.2	4.7	6.8	3.5	4.1	5.9	6.1	5.4	6.2	6.0	6.2	5.4
11 years	5.5	6.1	6.4	6.4	3.9	5.6	4.3	7.0	3.2	4.1	5.1	6.2	5.6	6.4	6.1	6.0
12 years	5.7	5.5	6.2	6.3	3.6	3.9	5.7	5.6	2.5	5.1	5.3	6.2	5.5	5.8	6.3	6.4
13 years	5.2	5.6	5.6	6.1	4.1	5.2	5.0	6.1	4.8	3.6	4.0	6.6	5.3	5.6	6.1	6.1
14 years	5.8	4.8	6.1	5.3	3.4	5.0	4.7	6.0	5.1	3.6	3.5	4.0	4.8	5.7	5.7	6.2
15 years	5.2	6.1	5.2	5.7	5.4	6.0	5.2	7.6	4.8	6.7	4.8	4.1	5.5	5.0	5.9	6.2
16 years	6.4	5.3	5.8	5.5	3.1	3.8	5.2	4.0	6.3	3.6	2.8	2.5	5.0	5.7	5.5	6.1
17 years	5.6	5.4	5.2	5.5	2.6	2.8	3.1	2.6	4.8	2.3	1.5	2.6	5.7	5.2	6.0	5.9
18 years	3.9	4.5	4.5	4.5	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.4	2.9	3.8	1.8	1.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	5.4
19 years	3.7	2.8	3.6	3.9	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	2.5	1.3	2.8	1.3	3.1	3.8	3.7	4.4
20 years	1.5	2.1	1.9	2.3	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.1	2.5	7.7	10.6	6.5	3.0	2.3	2.9	3.6
Missing data	0.1	<.1	<.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.0	5.1	4.6	3.0	2.4	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.6

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1
Asian	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	96.7	94.8	92.2	89.0	83.9	78.0	62.7	61.2	88.6	88.5	75.3	78.6	94.3	91.4	87.0	85.1
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	0.8	1.2	1.7	2.1	3.4	2.4	3.3	2.9	2.2	2.6	2.8	2.2	1.3	1.4	1.9	2.3
White (non-Hispanic)	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.5	1.1	0.7	0.6	0.5	1.0	0.8	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.2
Two or more races	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.8	0.6	1.0	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.6
Unknown	1.6	3.1	5.1	7.8	11.6	18.1	32.1	34.2	7.6	7.4	20.5	17.4	3.5	6.3	9.8	11.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	1,086	1,148	1,178	1,130
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	0	0	1	51

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	1.0	0.5	0.3	0.3
1 year	2.8	1.0	2.0	2.3
2 years	4.1	2.8	2.5	2.9
3 years	5.2	4.3	4.5	4.3
4 years	7.2	5.7	6.1	5.6
5 years	7.6	7.0	5.8	6.9
6 years	10.0	7.1	7.4	6.5
7 years	9.2	9.8	6.6	6.9
8 years	9.4	9.2	8.6	7.4
9 years	9.1	9.8	9.1	8.1
10 years	9.9	8.9	8.9	8.8
11 years	7.4	9.6	7.9	9.6
12 years	7.4	7.6	9.0	8.3
13 years	4.2	7.3	7.6	8.0
14 years	2.6	4.4	6.1	5.6
15 years	1.8	2.7	3.9	4.3
16 years	0.5	1.5	2.4	2.2
17 years	0.3	0.4	0.7	1.4
18 years	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3
19 years	<.1	0.2	0.3	0.3
20+ years	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	96.8	96.3	95.1	90.6
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.8
White (non-Hispanic)	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3
Two or more races	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.6
Unknown	1.7	2.2	2.8	6.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	319	231	253	240

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	1.6	3.0	0.4	0.0
1 year	4.1	1.7	0.4	0.4
2 years	5.6	1.7	3.6	4.6
3 years	5.3	6.1	7.9	4.6
4 years	9.1	7.4	7.5	5.4
5 years	10.3	6.9	5.5	6.3
6 years	9.1	13.0	5.9	10.8
7 years	9.1	11.3	6.7	10.4
8 years	9.7	13.4	13.4	7.9
9 years	10.0	8.2	7.9	9.6
10 years	6.9	6.5	8.3	9.6
11 years	4.4	7.8	9.1	7.5
12 years	5.0	3.0	9.1	8.8
13 years	3.4	2.2	5.5	5.4
14 years	2.5	1.3	4.0	2.1
15 years	0.9	1.7	0.8	2.5
16 years	1.3	0.4	2.8	1.7
17 years	1.3	3.5	0.8	1.3
18 years	0.3	0.4	0.4	1.3
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	96.9	99.6	99.2	97.9
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	1.6	0.0	0.4	0.4
White (non-Hispanic)	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Two or more races	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	0.6	0.4	0.4	1.7
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

District of Columbia [OUTCOMES DATA]

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	—	91.7	93.6	91.9
Children with one or more recurrences	—	8.3	6.4	8.1
Number	—	1,353	1,413	1,215

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	0.33	0.39	0.43
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	99.67	99.61	99.57
Number	—	3,651	3,621	3,701

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	14.3	14.6	4.3	37.1
Guardianship	1.3	0.5	1.3	7.9
Reunification	53.0	57.7	76.5	44.5
Other	31.4	27.2	17.9	10.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	315	390	396	757

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	34.4	35.1	13.8	58.6
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	3.4	6.1
Reunification	37.5	40.5	48.3	23.2
Other	28.1	24.3	34.5	12.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	32	37	29	99

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	2.1	1.0	5.4
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8
Reunification	17.6	26.8	46.9	49.1
Other	82.4	71.1	52.1	43.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	91	97	96	112

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	20.0	26.5	27.8	29.6
Children older than 12 at entry	80.0	73.5	72.2	67.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.8
Number	25	49	54	71

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/American Indian				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.8	16.2	5.7	45.2
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4	0.6	1.0	8.6
Reunification	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	51.6	55.9	69.8	34.5
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	31.2	27.2	23.5	11.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	279	345	298	595

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.7
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	71.4	70.0	100.0	70.6	50.0	100.0	100.0	66.7
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	28.6	30.0	0.0	17.6	50.0	0.0	0.0	16.7
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	0	0	0	0	7	10	11	17	2	2	4	6

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	3.4	0.0	5.3	50.0	0.0	0.0	40.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	2.5	5.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	70.8	72.4	96.3	87.1	0.0	50.0	100.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	29.2	24.1	1.2	2.3	50.0	50.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	24	29	81	132	2	4	2	5	0	0	0	1

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	59.9	65.8	68.0	62.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	19.8	10.7	13.9	13.1
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	9.6	16.0	7.6	11.0
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	3.6	3.1	4.6	5.6
48 or more mos.	7.2	4.4	5.9	8.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	167	225	303	337

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	85.4	86.7	81.2	74.4
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	3.7	5.7	9.7	12.8
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	6.2	5.4	8.6	12.2
Missing data	4.6	2.2	0.5	0.6
Number	775	822	812	719

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	2.2	5.3	0.0	1.1
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	13.3	0.0	5.9	3.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	35.6	15.8	0.0	11.0
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	17.8	14.0	11.8	19.2
48 or more mos.	31.1	64.9	82.4	64.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4
Number	45	57	17	281

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	86.5	86.3	84.5	91.2	75.8	68.5	57.9	62.0	59.5	55.8	50.0	41.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	13.5	13.8	15.5	8.8	24.2	31.5	42.1	38.0	40.5	44.2	50.0	58.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	820	880	878	753	748	531	508	513	1,801	2,318	2,331	2,578	0	0	0	5

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	7.1	24.9	9.5	0.8
Institutions	16.5	20.6	20.0	28.0
Other settings	74.5	52.7	64.3	68.9
Missing data	2.0	1.8	6.2	2.2
Number	595	598	566	489

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Government of the District of Columbia

The following are the District of Columbia's comments on the data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2003: Report to Congress*.

Section B (Maltreatment Information Overview): The District first provided child-specific NCANDS data for all children who were the subject of an investigated report of alleged maltreatment in 2002. Therefore, reporting differences may limit the comparability of numbers for earlier years with those for 2002 and 2003. This limitation on comparability applies to all NCANDS data comparisons.

Section B (Race/Ethnicity of Victims): The District implemented new search capability in the later part of 2001 and the automated system did not populate the Race/Ethnicity fields for children previously known to the system from that point through September 2003. This data recording problem was corrected as of September 2003. Therefore, the 2000 and 2001 data are not comparable to 2002 and 2003.

Section D (Children Waiting to be Adopted): The Child and Family Services Agency is working jointly with the Family Court and the Office of the Attorney General to improve compliance with ASFA timelines for termination of parental rights (TPR). As a result of a joint effort to clear the ASFA backlog, 171 TPR motions were recently filed.

Section E (Children Adopted): There is a slight discrepancy between the number of children reported as adopted to the adoption file (Section E) and the number reported to the foster care file (outcome measure 5.1). This apparent discrepancy is the result of timing differences between the data on adoption as the reason for exit from foster care and the data on the date of the finalized adoption. This discrepancy has been corrected by the use of transaction dates starting with the District's AFCARS 2004 submission.

Permanency Outcomes: The District is concerned about the number of children lingering in foster care and is placing a high priority on improving permanency outcomes.

Outcome measure 7.1 (Placement of Young Children in Group Homes): The District's percentage of young children placed in group homes or institutions is inflated by the District's practice of sending young children to a specialized institution (St Ann's) for health assessment or shelter care immediately after home removal pending identification of longer term/permanent foster home placement. The majority of the children (who were in group homes or institutions) (15.3 percent) were placed in a foster home or returned home within 30 days. If those children are excluded, the District's percentage drops from 28.8 to 13.5 percent.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of the District of Columbia's (the District) performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the District's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, 8.1 percent of the children in the District who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1), which exceeds the national median of 7.1 percent. Although performance on this measure did not change from 2001 to 2003 (the District did not provide data for this measure in 2000), there was a considerable improvement in performance from 2001 to 2002 (-22.9 percent change) followed by a performance decline in 2003. These variations in performance may be due to data quality issues.

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

In 2003, 0.43 percent of children in foster care in the District were found to be the victims of substantiated or indicated maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member (measure 2.1). This percent not only exceeds the national median of 0.39 percent, but also represents a decline in performance from 2001 to 2003 (+30.3 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003, 89.5 percent of all children exiting foster care were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.1), which exceeds the national median of 86.3 percent. In addition, 87.9 percent of the children exiting foster care in 2003 who had a diagnosed disability were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.2), which exceeds the national median of 79.5 percent. In contrast, 56.3 percent of the children exiting foster care who older than age 12 when they entered foster care were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.3), which is substantially less than the national median of 72.2 percent. An assessment of performance over time was difficult for these measures because the number of children reported as exiting foster care in 2003 (757 children) was more than twice the number reported in 2000 (315 children). It is not clear whether this difference is due to data quality issues or to an actual difference in the number of children exiting foster care.

With regard to ensuring that children who are emancipated from foster care (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) do not spend most of their formative years in foster care, in 2003, 29.6 percent of the children in the District reported as emancipated from foster care entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4). Although this percent is equal to the national median, performance on this measure declined from 2000 to 2003 (+48.0 percent change).

It is difficult to assess exits to permanency as a function of the child's race or ethnicity. Of the 757 children exiting care in 2003, 595 (79 percent) were reported to be Black (non-Hispanic) and 132 (17 percent) were reported as race "Unable to Determine."

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, 62.3 percent of all reunifications in the District occurred within 12 months of the child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1), which is less than the national median of 72.0 percent. Performance on this measure did not change from 2000 to 2003. In addition, 13.6 percent of the reunifications occurred after a

child had been in foster care for at least 36 months, which is considerably higher than the national median of 3.5 percent. Performance on this measure declined from 2000 to 2003 (+25.9 percent change).

Some of the data presented for the District suggest that data quality issues may explain performance on this measure. For example, there was a considerable increase in the median length of stay of children in foster care and of children exiting foster care from 2000 to 2003. In 2000, the median length of stay of children in foster care on the last day of the fiscal year was 27.4 months compared to 42.8 months in 2003. Similarly, in 2000, the median length of stay of children exiting foster care was 15.8 months, while in 2003, the median length of stay for children exiting foster care was 36.4 months. Because the reason for these extreme changes is not known, it is difficult to interpret performance on measures related to timeliness of permanency.

With regard to re-entry into foster care, in 2003, 12.8 percent of the children entering foster care in the District were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (measure 4.2). This percent not only exceeds the national median of 9.5 percent, but also represents a considerable decline in performance from 2000 to 2003 (+245 percent change). The percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering more than 12 months after a prior episode also increased considerably from 2000 to 2003, indicating a decline in performance (96.7 percent change). Overall, 25 percent of the children entering foster care in 2003 had been in foster care at a prior time.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

The District has not been successful in achieving outcome 5. In 2003, only 5.0 percent of the adoptions in the District occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care, which is far less than the national median of 23.9 percent. Change in performance from 2000 to 2003 cannot be assessed because of data quality issues associate with the District's 2000 adoption data.

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, 91.2 percent of children in foster care in the District for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings (measure 6.1). This percent not only exceeds the national median of 84.2 percent, but also represents improved performance from 2000 (+5.4 percent change). In addition, 62.0 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months, experienced no more than two placement settings, which exceeds the national median of 59.1 percent.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 28.8 percent of the children entering foster care in the District who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percent is three times the national median of 8.3 percent and represents a decline in performance on the measure from 2000 to 2003 (+22.0 percent change).

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	3,665,040	3,787,039	3,856,739	3,924,123
Race/Ethnicity (%)¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Asian	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.7
Black (non-Hispanic)	20.6	21.2	20.0	20.0
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	19.3	19.9	19.5	20.1
White (non-Hispanic)	55.4	55.0	56.9	56.2
Two or more races	2.4	1.8	1.6	1.7
% Child population in poverty	16.1	18.8	16.5	19.2

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	95,849	124,134	122,131	138,499
Children in foster care on 9/30	36,608	32,477	31,963	30,677
Children adopted	1,629	1,508	2,309	2,786

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	205,179	56.0 per 1,000	266,502	70.4 per 1,000	254,856	66.1 per 1,000	351,499	89.6 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	95,849	26.1 per 1,000	124,134	32.8 per 1,000	122,131	31.7 per 1,000	138,499	35.3 per 1,000
Child fatalities	65	1.8 per 100,000	91	2.4 per 100,000	97	2.5 per 100,000	101	2.6 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	9.3	8.8	9.3	9.3
1-5 years	30.4	31.0	31.8	32.3
6-10 years	30.1	29.5	28.1	27.7
11-15 years	24.1	24.6	24.6	24.6
16+ years	6.0	6.1	6.2	6.1
Unknown	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	95,849	124,134	122,131	138,499

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
Asian	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	29.9	30.1	30.4	31.2
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	7.2	7.8	8.2	9.4
White (non-Hispanic)	61.4	60.7	60.1	57.8
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Unknown	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0
Number	95,849	124,134	122,131	138,499

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	3.4	3.4	2.9	2.4
Medical neglect	2.2	2.0	1.9	1.9
Neglect	35.9	33.7	32.4	30.2
Physical abuse	16.0	15.8	14.5	13.9
Sexual abuse	5.7	5.2	4.9	4.5
Unknown/missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	61.6	63.3	66.0	67.3
Number	95,849	124,134	122,131	138,499

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	33,353	30,865	28,503	31,712	18,765	18,673	20,800	20,549	15,510	17,061	17,340	21,585	36,608	32,477	31,963	30,677
Median length of stay (months)	14.3	14.4	14.4	12.9	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	14.7	13.8	12.2	12.1	14.8	13.9	12.4	12.4

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	5.9	5.8	5.8	6.2	17.8	16.0	16.1	16.6	3.8	3.9	3.9	4.3	5.8	5.8	6.4	6.8
1 year	7.3	7.6	7.5	7.6	7.7	7.7	7.4	7.5	7.4	7.3	7.0	7.2	7.5	7.6	7.8	8.0
2 years	6.8	7.0	7.5	7.4	6.7	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.3	7.2	7.6	7.5	7.0	7.5	7.4	7.6
3 years	6.0	6.7	6.7	6.8	5.8	6.0	6.1	6.5	6.7	7.0	7.2	7.2	6.6	6.8	6.8	7.0
4 years	5.9	5.7	5.8	6.2	5.5	5.6	5.9	6.1	6.1	6.6	6.3	6.7	5.7	6.0	6.3	6.2
5 years	6.1	5.6	5.3	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.5	6.2	6.0	5.9	6.1	5.6	5.3	5.7	5.6
6 years	5.9	5.9	4.9	5.0	5.6	5.3	4.9	5.0	6.3	6.2	5.2	5.7	5.8	5.2	5.0	5.2
7 years	6.1	5.6	5.4	4.9	5.5	5.1	5.0	4.7	6.1	5.7	5.1	4.9	5.6	5.4	4.8	4.8
8 years	6.1	5.9	5.4	5.1	5.2	5.5	4.8	4.5	6.1	6.1	5.7	5.2	5.8	5.5	5.1	4.6
9 years	5.6	5.8	5.5	5.0	5.2	5.0	4.6	4.5	5.8	5.7	5.2	4.8	5.6	5.5	5.0	4.7
10 years	5.2	5.4	5.4	5.1	4.9	4.9	4.6	4.4	5.3	5.1	5.2	4.9	5.3	5.5	5.0	4.7
11 years	4.9	5.0	5.1	5.1	4.3	4.6	4.4	4.3	4.7	5.1	4.9	4.6	5.0	5.1	5.0	4.9
12 years	4.7	4.9	4.8	5.0	4.3	4.6	4.6	4.4	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.8	4.8	5.0	4.9
13 years	4.6	4.5	5.1	4.9	4.1	4.3	4.8	4.7	3.8	4.1	4.6	4.3	4.7	4.9	4.9	5.0
14 years	4.4	4.6	4.8	5.0	3.6	4.0	4.7	4.6	3.8	3.9	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.9	5.0
15 years	4.6	4.5	4.9	4.8	3.7	3.7	3.9	4.3	3.6	3.8	4.5	3.9	4.4	4.6	4.7	5.3
16 years	4.4	4.6	4.6	4.6	2.7	3.1	3.4	3.5	3.3	3.5	3.8	3.4	4.5	4.3	4.5	5.0
17 years	3.7	3.6	3.9	4.1	1.5	1.5	1.8	1.8	3.7	3.1	4.9	6.1	3.7	3.9	3.9	4.4
18 years	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	4.6	4.1	2.9	2.7	1.3	1.1	1.0	<.1
19 years	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.4	<.1
20 years	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	<.1
Missing data	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	<.1

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
Asian	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	<.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	47.4	44.9	44.6	42.7	39.1	38.8	36.9	37.7	41.7	40.7	39.9	38.4	45.6	43.6	42.2	42.4
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	9.0	8.9	8.4	8.7	8.8	7.9	8.6	8.7	7.6	8.8	8.4	8.2	9.4	8.3	8.5	9.0
White (non-Hispanic)	40.2	42.5	44.0	45.5	48.9	50.4	51.5	51.0	47.6	46.6	48.8	50.3	41.6	44.9	46.2	45.8
Two or more races	2.9	3.2	2.4	2.1	2.5	1.9	1.5	1.3	2.4	3.1	1.9	1.9	2.9	2.5	2.0	1.8
Unknown	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.7	1.0	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	5,395	7,696	8,115	8,174
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	0	3,130	3,558	4,351

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	2.9	3.8	2.9	3.1
1 year	6.6	7.7	5.7	5.7
2 years	7.3	8.1	7.5	7.2
3 years	7.0	7.7	6.8	7.1
4 years	6.3	6.3	6.7	6.3
5 years	5.7	5.4	6.2	5.8
6 years	6.3	5.3	5.2	5.0
7 years	6.5	5.6	5.0	5.0
8 years	7.4	6.0	5.7	4.9
9 years	7.3	6.3	5.7	5.9
10 years	7.0	6.7	6.1	5.6
11 years	6.3	6.4	6.6	6.3
12 years	6.1	5.6	6.3	6.7
13 years	6.0	5.7	5.6	6.4
14 years	4.7	4.8	6.0	5.8
15 years	2.7	3.9	5.1	5.9
16 years	2.2	2.5	3.7	4.5
17 years	1.2	1.8	2.3	2.9
18 years	0.4	0.3	0.6	<.1
19 years	<.1	0.1	0.1	<.1
20+ years	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	<.1	0.2	0.3	0.2
Asian	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	48.4	45.1	46.5	45.4
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	10.9	9.4	9.8	9.6
White (non-Hispanic)	36.2	41.4	39.9	41.2
Two or more races	3.9	3.4	3.0	3.0
Unknown	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	1,629	1,508	2,309	2,786

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	1.5	1.8	1.8	1.3
1 year	9.6	9.6	10.1	7.7
2 years	12.9	12.0	13.0	11.8
3 years	10.1	12.6	12.5	12.4
4 years	7.6	9.3	8.5	11.0
5 years	8.8	7.8	7.5	8.3
6 years	7.3	7.9	6.1	7.4
7 years	7.0	6.7	6.0	5.5
8 years	7.4	6.4	5.1	5.6
9 years	5.6	5.7	6.6	5.1
10 years	6.4	4.8	4.8	4.7
11 years	4.7	4.3	4.3	5.0
12 years	3.3	2.5	4.4	4.2
13 years	3.1	2.9	3.0	3.2
14 years	1.7	2.0	2.3	2.0
15 years	1.2	1.4	1.9	2.0
16 years	0.9	1.0	1.2	1.7
17 years	0.6	1.2	0.7	0.8
18 years	0.2	<.1	0.2	0.2
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.6
Asian	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	35.1	35.5	35.6	34.1
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	15.2	13.5	9.3	8.8
White (non-Hispanic)	45.0	45.6	50.2	51.8
Two or more races	3.7	5.0	4.2	3.6
Unknown	0.9	0.4	0.5	0.8
Missing data	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	93.3	91.6	91.3	90.8
Children with one or more recurrences	6.7	8.4	8.7	9.2
Number	42,749	51,084	56,714	57,625

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.14	0.32	0.52	0.40
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.86	99.68	99.48	99.60
Number	49,176	43,917	45,534	46,909

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	10.3	8.8	11.1	12.9
Guardianship	1.7	2.3	3.8	3.8
Reunification	78.1	80.8	77.6	73.3
Other	9.9	8.0	7.3	8.7
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.2	1.3
Number	15,510	17,061	17,340	21,585

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	21.3	19.1	26.6	29.8
Guardianship	1.9	2.3	2.7	3.9
Reunification	61.4	63.0	56.2	46.0
Other	15.5	15.6	14.4	19.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.9
Number	1,782	1,823	2,092	2,574

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.6	1.0	1.0	1.4
Guardianship	2.8	3.1	4.6	4.7
Reunification	63.0	68.8	66.5	60.2
Other	33.5	27.1	27.6	32.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.2	1.5
Number	2,386	2,742	3,347	4,092

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	32.6	28.5	21.2	26.9
Children older than 12 at entry	67.3	71.5	78.8	73.1
Missing data	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	900	828	939	1,594

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/American Indian				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	11.8	7.7	11.5	28.1	5.7	0.0	0.0	6.7	8.4	7.3	10.1	11.4
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	11.5	1.6	0.0	0.0	6.7	4.4	1.6	1.9	3.8	4.1
Reunification	82.4	69.2	73.1	65.6	88.6	94.6	90.0	77.8	79.2	82.0	77.7	72.1
Other	5.9	23.1	3.8	1.6	5.7	5.4	3.3	11.1	10.8	8.7	8.2	10.7
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	1.7
Number	17	26	26	64	35	37	30	45	6,469	6,946	6,917	8,282

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.7	17.4	12.2	11.7	13.8	10.0	9.0	11.5	13.2
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	3.9	3.3	3.3	1.8	2.5	3.8	3.9
Reunification	0.0	66.7	100.0	92.3	69.0	74.5	75.8	70.5	79.1	81.3	78.2	74.8
Other	0.0	33.3	0.0	0.0	12.6	9.4	9.1	11.2	9.0	7.2	6.3	7.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	1.1
Number	0	3	2	13	1,182	1,505	1,463	1,770	7,376	7,951	8,459	10,866

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	9.6	5.8	8.3	16.4	24.5	17.7	23.9	24.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	1.9	1.4	5.6	2.1	1.6	1.3	2.1	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	75.0	81.2	79.6	77.1	69.7	75.2	69.0	67.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	13.5	11.6	6.5	2.9	4.2	5.7	5.1	5.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	52	69	108	140	379	524	335	405	0	0	0	0

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	48.0	50.2	57.7	60.7
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	28.5	31.0	26.4	27.1
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	10.4	9.4	9.2	6.7
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	4.7	3.9	3.1	2.8
48 or more mos.	7.7	5.2	3.3	2.4
Missing data	0.8	0.4	0.3	0.1
Number	12,120	13,788	13,464	15,817

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	88.2	86.2	85.6	84.0
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	7.6	5.3	6.9	8.2
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	4.2	2.2	2.3	5.1
Missing data	0.0	6.2	5.2	2.7
Number	18,765	18,673	20,800	20,549

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	4.1	10.1	4.8	4.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	17.6	19.5	23.4	18.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	25.1	26.0	27.6	28.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	18.3	17.1	18.7	20.7
48 or more mos.	34.8	27.2	25.5	28.3
Missing data	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0
Number	1,593	1,506	1,931	2,775

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	82.9	86.4	84.4	83.4	75.9	78.9	75.5	69.9	59.1	60.9	53.6	47.0	76.2	53.8	41.4	77.1
Children with 3 or more placements	7.9	8.1	11.6	13.9	18.6	18.0	24.2	29.9	36.8	37.4	46.2	52.9	2.4	1.3	0.9	0.7
Number	21,641	22,371	24,183	25,668	13,575	12,156	10,867	12,133	16,776	14,933	14,137	14,321	126	78	116	140

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	0.9	1.4	1.7	1.8
Institutions	0.3	4.2	5.0	5.0
Other settings	75.0	90.5	93.2	93.1
Missing data	23.7	3.9	<.1	0.1
Number	13,744	14,790	16,511	16,353

Florida [STATE COMMENT]

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of Florida's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, 9.2 percent of the children in Florida who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percent not only exceeds the national median of 7.1 percent, but also represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (+37.3 percent change).

The increase in the percent of victims experiencing a maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was matched by an increase in Florida's child victim rate from 2000 to 2003. The child victim rate in Florida increased from 26.1 child victims per 1,000 children in the State population in 2000 to 35.3 child victims per 1,000 children in the population in 2003. Both rates exceed the national median of 10.6 children per 1,000 children in the population.

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

In 2003, 0.40 percent of children in foster care in Florida were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). This percent not only exceeds the national median of 0.39 percent, but also represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (+185.7 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003, 90.0 percent of children exiting foster care in Florida were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.1), which exceeds the national median of 86.3 percent. Also, 79.7 percent of the children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.2), which is about equal to the national median of 79.5 percent. In contrast, only 66.3 percent of the children exiting foster care in 2003 who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.3), which is less than the national median of 72.2 percent.

With regard to ensuring that children who are emancipated from foster care (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) do not spend most of their formative years in foster care, 26.9 percent of the children reported in 2003 as emancipated from foster care (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4). This percent is slightly less than the national median of 29.6 percent but represents an improvement in performance on the measure from 2000 to 2003 (-17.5 percent change).

The data regarding exits to emancipation suggest that a fairly large number of children are discharged from foster care to emancipation prior to their 18th birthday. In 2003, for example, 820 of the children exiting foster care were age 18 or older at the time of exit. However, 1,594 children were reported as exiting foster care to emancipation.

There were slight differences in exits to permanency in 2003 as a function of children's race or ethnicity (measure 3.5). Black (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care (87.6 percent) and Hispanic children exiting foster care (87.6) were slightly less likely to be discharged to a permanent home than were White

(non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care (91.9 percent). However, the percentage of Black (non-Hispanic) children in foster care in 2003 (42.4 percent) was more than twice the percentage of these children in the State's child population (20.0 percent).

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, 60.7 percent of reunifications in Florida occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1). Although this is less than the national median of 72.0 percent, it represents improved performance from 2000 to 2003 (+26.5 percent change). Also in 2003, although 5.2 percent of reunifications occurred after the child had been in foster care for at least 36 months, which exceeds the national median of 3.5 percent, performance on this measure also improved from 2000 to 2003 (-58.1 percent change).

With regard to re-entry into foster care, in 2003, 8.2 percent of children entering foster care in Florida were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (measure 4.2). Although this percent is less than the national median of 9.5 percent, it represents a decline in performance on the measure from 2000 to 2003.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2003, 22.7 percent of all finalized adoptions in Florida occurred within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care, which is less than the national median of 23.9 percent (measure 5.1). There was no change in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003.

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, 83.4 percent of the children in foster care for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings, which is slightly less than the national median of 84.2 percent (measure 6.1). However, 69.9 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months, experienced no more than two placement settings, which exceeds the national median for this measure of 59.1 percent.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 6.8 percent of the children entering foster care in Florida who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). Although this percent is less than the national median of 8.3 percent, it represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (+21.4 percent change).

Georgia [CONTEXT DATA]

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	2,178,949	2,232,608	2,266,258	2,296,759
Race/Ethnicity (%)¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	34.1	33.8	33.3	33.1
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	6.3	6.7	6.9	7.4
White (non-Hispanic)	55.5	55.6	56.0	55.6
Two or more races	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.5
% Child population in poverty	16.4	19.5	16.0	17.7

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	30,806	36,744	41,206	43,923
Children in foster care on 9/30	11,204	13,175	13,149	13,578
Children adopted	1,091	1,001	1,135	1,091

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	92,254	42.3 per 1,000	114,653	51.3 per 1,000	126,677	55.9 per 1,000	121,269	52.8 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	30,806	14.1 per 1,000	36,744	16.5 per 1,000	41,206	18.2 per 1,000	43,923	19.1 per 1,000
Child fatalities	45	2.1 per 100,000	48	2.2 per 100,000	51	2.2 per 100,000	49	2.1 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	7.2	10.0	10.3	10.4
1-5 years	30.4	31.0	31.6	32.2
6-10 years	31.6	30.2	29.1	27.9
11-15 years	24.3	24.0	23.9	23.9
16+ years	6.0	4.6	4.8	4.4
Unknown	0.4	0.3	0.2	1.3
Number	30,806	36,744	41,206	43,923

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
Asian	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	46.2	44.4	42.0	41.4
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	3.3	3.3	3.8	5.9
White (non-Hispanic)	46.9	48.4	50.3	49.6
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	3.3	3.4	3.5	2.7
Number	30,806	36,744	41,206	43,923

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	4.6	4.5	4.1	3.5
Medical neglect	4.9	4.3	4.0	4.5
Neglect	68.9	72.4	74.6	79.6
Physical abuse	12.3	11.1	9.6	9.9
Sexual abuse	7.5	6.0	5.5	5.0
Unknown/missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	8.1	9.1	11.3	4.3
Number	30,806	36,744	41,206	43,923

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	8,832	11,363	12,812	12,955	7,028	9,065	9,766	10,568	4,657	7,250	9,431	9,946	11,204	13,175	13,149	13,578
Median length of stay (months)	21.6	16.3	15.4	14.9	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7.7	6.2	8.1	7.7	15.2	15.6	15.1	13.8

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	5.9	6.6	6.1	6.4	18.1	16.3	16.3	16.0	6.8	7.2	6.6	7.2	7.0	6.0	6.3	6.2
1 year	6.2	7.3	7.8	7.6	6.9	7.5	7.4	7.4	6.7	7.7	7.6	7.1	7.4	7.5	7.4	7.7
2 years	5.9	5.8	6.9	7.0	5.9	6.3	6.2	6.8	7.3	7.4	7.1	7.6	5.8	6.8	7.0	7.3
3 years	5.5	5.4	5.8	6.4	5.3	6.1	6.1	5.9	6.7	6.4	6.7	7.2	5.3	5.7	6.4	6.2
4 years	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.3	5.1	5.6	5.2	5.5	4.9	6.4	5.9	6.1	5.0	4.9	5.2	5.8
5 years	5.4	5.0	4.7	4.7	4.9	4.9	5.1	5.0	5.7	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.0	4.6	4.8	4.7
6 years	5.5	5.1	5.1	4.5	5.4	5.2	4.8	4.7	6.1	5.4	5.3	4.9	5.1	5.0	4.5	4.5
7 years	6.2	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.8	5.1	6.3	5.6	5.0	5.1	4.8	4.7	4.8	4.4
8 years	6.1	5.4	4.7	4.1	4.5	4.9	4.4	4.0	5.6	5.3	5.1	4.5	5.3	4.6	4.1	4.5
9 years	5.8	5.5	5.0	4.7	5.0	4.4	4.7	4.5	5.8	5.1	4.6	4.5	5.6	5.0	4.7	4.0
10 years	5.5	5.3	5.2	5.1	4.7	4.5	4.5	4.3	5.1	5.0	4.4	4.5	5.2	5.1	5.0	4.5
11 years	6.1	5.4	5.1	5.2	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.5	5.0	5.0	4.8	4.6	5.4	5.0	5.1	5.1
12 years	5.8	5.7	5.3	5.2	4.7	5.0	4.6	5.0	4.6	5.1	4.6	4.6	5.8	5.2	5.2	5.3
13 years	6.1	5.5	5.7	5.5	5.2	4.9	4.6	5.3	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.6	5.7	5.6	5.5	5.7
14 years	6.5	5.9	5.7	6.1	5.2	4.9	5.4	5.2	5.2	5.4	4.7	4.7	6.0	5.6	6.0	5.9
15 years	7.1	6.3	5.9	6.2	5.2	4.6	5.4	5.3	5.5	4.3	5.7	5.1	6.3	5.8	6.0	6.3
16 years	4.8	5.8	5.8	6.0	3.6	4.1	4.7	4.1	5.4	5.0	5.0	4.9	5.9	5.7	5.7	6.0
17 years	0.7	3.3	4.3	4.6	0.5	1.0	1.1	1.4	3.1	3.3	4.3	5.1	3.3	4.4	4.6	4.5
18 years	0.0	0.8	1.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.5	2.5	1.9	0.0	2.2	1.3	1.5
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.7	0.6	0.0
20 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.2	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.2	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.5	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Asian	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	59.7	58.0	55.4	53.2	52.1	48.7	47.3	46.6	53.0	50.9	50.0	49.0	57.7	55.5	53.3	51.1
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	2.4	3.1	3.4	3.5	4.3	4.7	4.6	5.8	3.7	4.6	4.5	5.3	3.0	3.4	3.5	4.0
White (non-Hispanic)	33.6	35.3	37.6	40.0	40.1	42.9	44.8	43.8	38.9	40.6	41.8	42.2	35.5	37.6	40.0	41.3
Two or more races	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.7	2.3	2.6	2.2	2.7	2.3	2.7	2.7	2.2	2.8	2.9	2.6	3.0
Unknown	1.0	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.7	1.3	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.3	0.4	0.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	2,860	4,185	3,200	2,498
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	1,482	2,122	1,827	1,437

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	3.9	6.4	3.9	2.2
1 year	7.1	9.5	8.3	5.3
2 years	5.9	8.4	9.5	9.0
3 years	6.2	7.0	7.6	8.5
4 years	5.9	6.3	5.8	5.9
5 years	6.4	6.4	5.6	5.8
6 years	6.3	6.4	5.7	5.3
7 years	6.7	5.5	5.9	5.4
8 years	7.7	5.8	5.0	5.4
9 years	7.5	6.6	5.1	5.2
10 years	6.7	6.2	6.0	4.7
11 years	6.0	5.8	6.4	6.5
12 years	6.8	4.6	5.7	6.8
13 years	5.3	5.1	5.2	6.3
14 years	4.1	3.8	5.6	5.4
15 years	3.7	2.9	4.1	5.7
16 years	2.2	1.6	2.3	3.4
17 years	1.4	1.0	1.7	2.2
18 years	0.0	0.5	0.3	1.0
19 years	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.3	0.1	0.1	<.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	60.3	54.7	54.3	53.8
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	0.1	0.2
Hispanic (of any race)	3.3	3.3	3.2	2.7
White (non-Hispanic)	30.9	37.3	37.7	39.0
Two or more races	4.3	4.1	4.1	3.9
Unknown	0.8	0.3	0.4	0.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	1,091	1,001	1,135	1,091

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	0.8	0.2	1.1	0.8
1 year	6.2	7.2	6.5	7.3
2 years	9.5	12.3	12.0	13.0
3 years	8.7	9.1	10.1	11.8
4 years	7.1	9.3	8.0	8.2
5 years	7.0	7.4	7.8	8.6
6 years	9.7	5.6	7.0	5.5
7 years	8.2	9.5	6.9	6.3
8 years	7.7	7.9	8.0	5.6
9 years	8.1	7.0	6.0	5.8
10 years	6.9	6.1	5.8	6.0
11 years	5.4	4.9	6.0	4.9
12 years	5.2	4.2	4.1	3.7
13 years	2.3	3.8	2.7	4.0
14 years	2.6	2.2	2.7	3.0
15 years	1.7	1.2	2.5	1.9
16 years	1.8	1.4	1.7	2.2
17 years	0.6	0.5	0.9	1.1
18 years	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.2
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.2	0.8	<.1	<.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	55.6	49.6	50.1	51.0
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	2.1	5.4	5.4	4.7
White (non-Hispanic)	35.9	34.9	37.2	36.9
Two or more races	4.1	7.5	6.4	5.8
Unknown	2.0	1.9	0.8	1.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—	—
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	23.5	13.6	12.4	10.8
Guardianship	2.5	1.9	2.1	1.9
Reunification	66.5	76.9	75.5	77.8
Other	7.4	5.9	7.8	9.4
Missing data	<.1	1.7	2.2	<.1
Number	4,657	7,250	9,431	9,946

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	42.0	22.4	22.7	18.5
Guardianship	2.3	2.0	2.2	1.6
Reunification	43.2	62.0	57.2	62.1
Other	12.4	8.1	13.1	17.9
Missing data	0.0	5.5	4.9	0.0
Number	474	787	1,314	1,542

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	1.2	0.2	1.1	0.6
Guardianship	2.3	2.3	2.0	2.5
Reunification	76.4	81.6	76.0	74.3
Other	19.9	13.8	17.4	22.6
Missing data	0.2	2.0	3.4	0.0
Number	833	1,242	1,864	1,969

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	28.6	41.1	45.0	40.5
Children older than 12 at entry	71.4	58.0	55.0	59.5
Missing data	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0
Number	56	112	318	402

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/American Indian				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	57.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	35.3	18.2	3.0	6.5	24.3	13.2	12.9	11.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.1	0.0	3.4	2.1	2.8	2.4
Reunification	33.3	100.0	83.3	75.0	58.8	75.8	87.9	78.3	65.4	77.1	73.6	77.6
Other	9.5	0.0	16.7	25.0	5.9	3.0	0.0	15.2	6.9	5.4	8.3	9.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	3.0	0.0	<.1	2.1	2.4	0.0
Number	21	5	6	8	17	33	33	46	2,469	3,691	4,712	4,872

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.9	14.8	11.9	10.2	22.2	13.0	11.4	10.3
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2	0.6	0.0	1.3	1.5	1.8	1.5	1.6
Reunification	0.0	50.0	100.0	100.0	75.7	77.9	79.7	80.6	67.8	77.3	77.6	78.0
Other	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	5.2	5.2	6.5	7.9	8.3	6.8	7.6	10.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.5	1.9	0.0	0.2	1.2	1.8	<.1
Number	0	2	4	3	173	330	428	532	1,810	2,941	3,946	4,202

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	33.3	14.5	7.8	4.9	21.5	29.5	21.5	22.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.8	1.0	2.8	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	55.0	78.2	86.3	83.6	69.2	64.2	64.5	71.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	6.7	7.3	5.9	11.5	6.5	3.6	6.4	5.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.6	4.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	60	55	51	61	107	193	251	222	0	0	0	0

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	75.9	75.4	73.1	73.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	14.4	16.7	17.4	17.0
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	4.2	3.8	5.4	5.7
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	2.2	1.4	1.7	1.7
48 or more mos.	3.2	2.7	2.4	2.1
Missing data	<.1	<.1	0.1	<.1
Number	3,097	5,574	7,117	7,742

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	87.6	87.7	85.9	86.0
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	6.1	6.0	7.2	7.9
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	5.8	5.8	6.0	5.5
Missing data	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.6
Number	7,028	9,065	9,766	10,568

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	2.7	3.3	2.2	2.4
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	14.9	15.4	14.7	14.7
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	22.9	25.8	28.4	33.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	18.8	19.5	21.9	22.4
48 or more mos.	40.6	36.0	32.8	27.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,093	989	1,167	1,076

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	94.3	91.5	90.7	91.3	75.8	79.6	79.7	74.8	47.1	49.3	54.4	55.1	100.0	92.9	90.9	92.9
Children with 3 or more placements	5.7	8.5	9.3	8.7	24.2	20.4	20.3	25.2	52.9	50.7	45.6	44.9	0.0	7.1	9.1	7.1
Number	7,512	10,154	11,351	12,390	2,841	4,104	4,469	4,445	5,496	6,156	6,703	6,632	11	14	55	56

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	2.1	1.6	2.2	4.1
Institutions	3.0	1.6	1.9	2.2
Other settings	94.9	95.0	94.3	93.7
Missing data	0.0	1.8	1.5	0.0
Number	5,477	6,040	6,939	8,170

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The following are Georgia's comments on the State data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2003: Report to Congress*.

Georgia continues to rely on legacy computer systems in order to meet the federal reporting requirements. It is our goal to provide consistent and accurate data. Georgia will continue to update and improve the legacy data system in order to stay current with federal requirements to provide consistent and accurate data.

Georgia did not provide data that could be used to calculate outcome measures 1.1 and 2.1. Georgia does not have a Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) that allows for tracking of "unique" children receiving child protective services.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of Georgia's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

Georgia's performance on outcome 1 cannot be assessed because the State does not provide data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) for calculating this outcome. To ensure consistency across States, the Report to Congress presents only data submitted through NCANDS.

However, Georgia provided data to NCANDS to calculate the number of child victims in the State. There was a considerable increase in the rate of child victims in Georgia from 2000 (14.1 child victims per 1,000 in the population) to 2003 (19.1 child victims per 1,000 in the population).

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

Georgia's performance on outcome 2 cannot be assessed because the State does not provide data to NCANDS for calculating this outcome. To ensure consistency across States, the Report to Congress presents only data submitted through NCANDS.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003, 90.5 percent of children exiting foster care in Georgia were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.1), which exceeds the national median of 86.3 percent. Also, 82.2 percent of children exiting care who had a diagnosed disability were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.2), which exceeds the national median of 79.5 percent. Finally, 77.4 percent of the children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home, which exceeds the national median of 72.2 percent.

With regard to ensuring that children who are emancipated from foster care (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) do not spend most of their formative years in foster care, in 2003, 40.5 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4). This exceeds the national median of 29.6 percent and is one of the highest percentages in the nation. Change in performance on this measure over time cannot be appropriately assessed because of the large differences in the numbers of children reported as exiting to emancipation.

In Georgia, many of the children who are reported as emancipated are discharged from foster care prior to their 18th birthday. In 2003, for example, 219 of the children exiting foster care were age 18 or older at the time of exit. However, 402 children were reported as exiting to emancipation.

There were no differences with regard to exits to permanency as a function of children's race or ethnicity. Black (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care were as likely to be discharged to a permanent home (91.0 percent) as were Hispanic children (92.1 percent) or White children (89.9 percent). However, the percent of Black children in the foster care population in 2003 (51.1 percent) exceeded the percent of Black children in the State's child population (33.1 percent).

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, 73.5 percent of all reunifications occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care, which is slightly higher than the national median of 72.0 percent (measure 4.1). Performance with regard to this measure did not change from 2000 to 2003. Also in 2003, 3.8 percent of reunifications occurred after the child had been in foster care for at least 36 months, which is about equal to the national median of 3.5 percent.

In 2003, 7.9 percent of the children entering foster care in Georgia were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (measure 4.2). Although this is less than the national median of 9.5 percent, performance on this measure declined from 2000 to 2003 (+29.5 percent change).

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2003, 17.6 percent of all finalized adoptions in Georgia occurred within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care, which is less than the national median of 23.9 percent (measure 5.1). Performance on this measure did not change from 2000 to 2003.

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

Georgia's performance with regard to placement stability exceeded the national median. In 2003, 91.3 percent of the children in foster care in the State for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings, which exceeds the national median of 84.2 percent (measure 6.1). In addition, 74.8 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months, experienced no more than two placement settings, which exceeds the national median of 59.1 percent.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 6.3 percent of the children entering foster care in Georgia who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). Although this percent is less than the national median of 8.3 percent, performance on this measure declined from 2000 to 2003 (+23.5 percent change).

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	295,515	293,610	294,956	297,142
Race/Ethnicity (%)¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	40.9	33.3	32.2	32.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	1.8	2.1	2.1	2.3
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	9.5	11.1	10.8
Hispanic (of any race)	11.9	12.3	11.5	11.7
White (non-Hispanic)	15.0	17.6	15.9	16.0
Two or more races	29.9	25.0	27.0	26.5
% Child population in poverty	13.9	15.9	14.4	12.0

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	3,533	3,982	3,744	4,046
Children in foster care on 9/30	2,401	2,584	2,762	2,967
Children adopted	280	260	366	318

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	6,184	20.9 per 1,000	7,334	25.0 per 1,000	7,318	24.8 per 1,000	8,230	27.7 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	3,533	12.0 per 1,000	3,982	13.6 per 1,000	3,744	12.7 per 1,000	4,046	13.6 per 1,000
Child fatalities	3	1.0 per 100,000	3	1.0 per 100,000	7	2.4 per 100,000	6	2.0 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	13.6	14.4	14.6	13.6
1-5 years	28.8	30.7	28.4	28.2
6-10 years	28.6	27.0	26.8	27.1
11-15 years	22.7	21.6	23.5	24.1
16+ years	5.9	6.0	6.3	6.5
Unknown	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.5
Number	3,533	3,982	3,744	4,046

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
Asian	46.5	41.9	35.3	11.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	1.7	1.5	1.3	1.7
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	19.8
Hispanic (of any race)	2.0	1.9	1.6	1.5
White (non-Hispanic)	10.8	9.0	10.9	9.5
Two or more races	22.1	30.9	34.1	26.2
Unknown	16.7	14.6	16.7	23.4
Number	3,533	3,982	3,744	4,046

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	3.2	4.2	3.3	2.5
Medical neglect	1.6	1.8	2.2	1.6
Neglect	14.6	16.2	18.5	16.9
Physical abuse	13.7	13.6	12.7	11.9
Sexual abuse	7.0	7.0	6.6	5.7
Unknown/missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	84.3	86.5	87.1	88.2
Number	3,533	3,982	3,744	4,046

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	2,154	2,311	2,509	2,666	1,929	2,193	2,350	2,409	1,682	1,920	2,097	2,108	2,401	2,584	2,762	2,967
Median length of stay (months)	13.4	12.3	11.7	11.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.5	7.7	7.0	7.1	12.2	11.4	11.4	12.2

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	5.6	8.0	7.9	8.5	15.9	16.7	17.2	15.9	6.1	7.8	6.3	7.7	8.0	8.0	8.6	7.4
1 year	7.0	6.2	7.7	8.2	6.8	6.6	6.0	6.0	6.9	6.7	7.9	7.2	6.3	7.7	8.3	7.5
2 years	6.0	6.4	6.5	5.9	5.5	6.2	5.4	5.0	6.4	6.2	6.8	6.9	6.3	6.5	5.9	7.0
3 years	5.7	4.9	6.0	5.4	4.9	5.0	4.9	5.6	5.9	5.2	4.7	5.6	5.0	5.9	5.4	4.9
4 years	6.0	5.4	4.9	5.9	5.5	4.4	5.6	6.0	5.5	4.9	6.0	5.8	5.2	4.8	5.9	5.7
5 years	6.0	5.8	5.0	5.1	5.4	5.3	6.3	4.2	5.6	6.3	6.8	5.2	6.1	5.0	5.1	5.3
6 years	6.1	5.3	5.4	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.6	5.8	4.8	4.8	5.1	5.3	5.2	4.7	4.7
7 years	5.7	5.6	5.6	4.5	5.2	6.1	4.6	4.5	5.8	5.6	5.4	4.2	5.5	5.6	4.5	4.8
8 years	4.7	5.4	5.8	5.5	4.9	4.5	4.8	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.1	4.4	5.2	5.6	5.5	5.1
9 years	5.9	4.9	4.8	5.1	5.8	4.5	4.6	5.1	5.2	4.8	5.1	5.2	5.2	4.8	5.1	5.9
10 years	5.2	5.5	4.8	4.6	5.1	5.5	4.3	4.9	5.9	5.0	5.0	4.0	5.7	4.9	4.6	4.6
11 years	3.9	4.8	5.6	5.0	4.4	4.5	5.0	4.3	4.3	4.8	4.1	4.2	4.7	5.6	5.0	5.3
12 years	4.2	4.1	4.6	5.8	4.7	4.2	4.6	5.6	4.3	4.7	4.8	6.0	4.4	4.6	5.8	5.1
13 years	4.2	4.4	4.1	5.1	4.4	5.0	5.3	5.4	3.6	3.8	4.0	5.0	4.4	4.3	5.1	5.7
14 years	5.2	4.9	5.1	4.5	4.9	4.6	4.6	4.9	3.7	4.1	4.1	4.3	5.0	4.8	4.6	5.1
15 years	5.8	5.4	5.6	5.8	4.3	4.9	4.7	4.9	5.0	4.4	4.8	5.0	5.2	6.0	5.6	5.0
16 years	6.5	5.9	5.1	5.0	4.5	4.1	3.9	5.0	3.6	4.4	4.4	4.6	5.7	5.3	4.9	5.9
17 years	6.3	6.5	5.2	4.9	2.8	2.9	3.4	2.7	6.2	3.5	6.3	8.7	6.2	5.0	4.9	4.8
18 years	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	4.7	7.7	3.3	0.9	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1
20 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	1.4	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.4	<.1	0.2	1.0	0.7	<.1	0.4	1.1	0.7	0.6	0.4
Asian	21.1	21.7	19.8	16.3	23.1	17.8	13.8	13.2	23.1	20.5	17.8	15.5	21.3	19.3	16.2	14.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	2.3	2.4	1.9	1.5	2.4	1.9	1.7	1.4	2.3	2.6	2.1	2.0	2.4	1.9	1.6	1.1
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	50.3	41.5	34.8	31.2	32.6	27.6	25.9	26.0	41.4	34.1	29.0	28.1	42.3	35.2	31.6	29.2
Hispanic (of any race)	2.7	2.3	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.4	1.9	1.8	2.5	2.8	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.1	1.8	1.7
White (non-Hispanic)	12.7	11.2	10.7	9.6	11.2	12.5	11.7	10.3	13.4	13.3	13.2	11.2	11.1	10.7	9.7	9.0
Two or more races	7.3	16.4	26.8	34.7	21.5	32.6	35.7	34.6	10.8	20.8	27.9	32.4	16.2	26.9	33.5	36.3
Unknown	1.9	3.0	2.6	2.6	5.3	2.6	4.4	4.2	4.3	3.0	4.1	3.3	2.9	2.7	3.0	3.4
Missing data	0.2	0.5	0.7	1.6	1.3	2.1	4.9	8.3	1.2	2.2	3.6	5.1	0.5	0.6	2.0	4.5

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	693	731	709	772
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	633	680	661	703

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	3.0	2.6	2.7	2.1
1 year	5.2	7.4	6.6	6.9
2 years	6.6	6.2	6.6	6.3
3 years	4.6	5.3	6.1	4.8
4 years	5.9	5.1	4.8	5.3
5 years	5.9	5.5	4.1	4.9
6 years	5.9	5.3	3.7	5.7
7 years	5.9	5.9	5.4	3.9
8 years	6.3	6.4	5.6	5.7
9 years	4.9	6.4	7.5	6.1
10 years	6.1	4.5	4.8	5.8
11 years	6.1	6.7	5.8	4.7
12 years	4.2	5.6	6.3	5.4
13 years	5.5	3.8	5.9	6.7
14 years	6.9	4.9	5.5	6.5
15 years	5.3	7.5	6.2	4.7
16 years	5.3	5.5	7.1	7.8
17 years	5.9	4.5	5.2	6.6
18 years	0.3	0.8	0.1	0.1
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.9	0.8	1.3	1.3
Asian	18.9	19.0	20.5	15.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	3.2	3.4	2.1	1.9
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	51.5	43.6	37.2	34.8
Hispanic (of any race)	3.6	3.0	1.7	1.7
White (non-Hispanic)	9.5	9.2	9.0	7.4
Two or more races	9.4	18.6	26.1	35.4
Unknown	2.0	2.3	2.0	1.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.5

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	280	260	366	318

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	3.6	5.4	4.6	5.7
1 year	15.7	16.2	18.6	14.5
2 years	12.9	11.2	14.2	14.8
3 years	10.0	11.2	6.6	11.3
4 years	7.1	7.7	9.0	9.1
5 years	7.1	8.1	9.0	6.6
6 years	10.0	7.3	5.2	4.4
7 years	9.6	6.5	6.0	4.4
8 years	5.7	4.6	5.2	4.7
9 years	5.7	5.0	5.2	6.0
10 years	5.4	3.5	4.6	5.3
11 years	3.6	5.0	4.1	4.4
12 years	2.1	2.3	3.3	2.5
13 years	0.7	2.3	1.9	2.5
14 years	0.4	2.7	1.1	1.3
15 years	0.0	0.0	0.5	1.6
16 years	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.3
17 years	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.6
18 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.1	3.1	0.3	0.0
Asian	18.2	21.2	21.3	23.9
Black (non-Hispanic)	2.1	1.9	2.2	1.6
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	59.6	45.0	30.1	27.7
Hispanic (of any race)	1.4	3.1	2.2	0.6
White (non-Hispanic)	13.2	9.2	6.8	4.7
Two or more races	3.9	15.8	33.1	39.6
Unknown	0.4	0.8	3.8	0.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.9

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	93.6	92.8	95.2	94.0
Children with one or more recurrences	6.4	7.2	4.8	6.0
Number	1,734	1,669	1,780	1,988

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	1.54	0.96	1.03	1.29
Children not maltreated while in foster care	98.46	99.04	98.97	98.71
Number	3,701	4,050	4,386	4,590

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	17.9	14.6	18.5	16.7
Guardianship	8.6	11.0	10.7	10.8
Reunification	60.6	64.4	61.0	62.5
Other	11.8	9.7	8.9	8.3
Missing data	1.1	0.3	0.9	1.8
Number	1,682	1,920	2,097	2,108

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	31.8	38.8	54.9	45.9
Guardianship	9.2	9.7	11.3	11.3
Reunification	37.5	36.1	20.7	27.8
Other	20.7	15.4	11.7	10.8
Missing data	0.8	0.0	1.5	4.1
Number	261	227	266	194

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.5	0.2	0.6	1.4
Guardianship	8.1	8.1	7.1	7.0
Reunification	56.0	60.4	62.5	63.7
Other	33.0	30.8	27.8	24.0
Missing data	2.4	0.5	1.9	3.9
Number	382	442	464	487

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	15.7	15.1	19.6	21.0
Children older than 12 at entry	84.3	84.9	80.4	79.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	121	139	138	119

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/American Indian				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	31.3	57.1	50.0	0.0	14.4	14.5	20.9	24.8	15.4	12.2	26.7	11.9
Guardianship	0.0	7.1	50.0	12.5	7.2	12.2	9.4	10.1	0.0	4.1	6.7	0.0
Reunification	50.0	28.6	0.0	62.5	62.7	63.7	56.1	54.3	71.8	69.4	51.1	78.6
Other	18.8	7.1	0.0	25.0	14.1	9.4	13.4	10.1	10.3	14.3	13.3	7.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.5	0.3	0.3	0.6	2.6	0.0	2.2	2.4
Number	16	14	2	8	389	394	374	326	39	49	45	42

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	22.1	18.3	18.6	15.7	9.5	17.0	23.9	4.4	18.7	11.7	10.1	10.6
Guardianship	11.0	14.7	15.1	14.4	4.8	24.5	8.7	11.1	6.7	8.2	8.7	11.0
Reunification	53.9	55.3	52.6	56.6	71.4	49.1	56.5	71.1	59.1	65.6	70.3	63.6
Other	12.3	11.5	12.0	11.3	14.3	9.4	8.7	11.1	13.8	13.7	10.1	8.9
Missing data	0.6	0.3	1.6	2.0	0.0	0.0	2.2	2.2	1.8	0.8	0.7	5.9
Number	697	655	608	592	42	53	46	45	225	256	276	236

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	2.7	5.3	17.4	7.2	17.1	11.8	21.9	20.2	5.0	0.0	1.3	1.9
Guardianship	9.6	8.8	4.7	14.5	7.7	5.5	10.4	8.9	5.0	9.5	1.3	5.6
Reunification	80.8	70.2	72.1	66.7	69.6	78.5	63.6	65.2	75.0	88.1	97.3	87.0
Other	4.1	15.8	3.5	10.1	5.0	4.0	3.8	4.7	10.0	2.4	0.0	4.6
Missing data	2.7	0.0	2.3	1.4	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.9	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.9
Number	73	57	86	69	181	400	585	682	20	42	75	108

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	82.1	80.3	83.8	81.4
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	13.5	16.1	13.4	15.0
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	3.9	3.2	1.7	3.0
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	0.2	0.2	0.7	0.3
48 or more mos.	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,019	1,236	1,280	1,317

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	79.8	79.2	79.4	76.5
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	10.2	10.0	9.1	10.6
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	9.4	10.1	10.3	11.8
Missing data	0.6	0.7	1.2	1.0
Number	1,929	2,193	2,350	2,409

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	6.3	13.6	8.3	9.4
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	36.9	38.2	39.3	39.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	35.9	27.9	34.4	36.8
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	10.3	12.9	11.9	10.0
48 or more mos.	10.6	7.5	6.2	4.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	301	280	387	351

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	85.0	83.8	84.3	84.4	60.2	66.5	66.9	66.2	39.6	34.7	38.7	38.1	100.0	100.0	85.7	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	12.9	14.9	13.3	12.7	39.5	33.0	32.8	33.0	60.2	65.2	61.0	61.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	2,144	2,477	2,652	2,699	896	1,028	1,152	1,259	1,042	998	1,048	1,104	1	1	7	13

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.3
Institutions	1.5	0.8	1.8	1.0
Other settings	96.5	97.9	95.4	95.9
Missing data	1.6	0.9	2.2	2.7
Number	1,507	1,687	1,796	1,828

Hawaii [STATE COMMENT]

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of Hawaii's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, 6.0 percent of the children in Hawaii who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This is less than the national median of 7.1 percent but represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (-6.3 percent change).

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

In 2003, 1.29 percent of the children in foster care were found to be maltreated by a foster parent or facility staff member (measure 2.1). Although this percent exceeds the national median of 0.39 percent, it represents an improvement in performance on the measure from 2000 (-16.2 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003, 90.0 percent of children exiting foster care (measure 3.1) were discharged to a permanent home, which exceeds the national median of 86.3 percent. Also, 85.0 percent of children exiting care who had a diagnosed disability were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.2), which exceeds the national median of 79.5 percent. In comparison, 72.1 percent of the children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home, which is about equal to the national median of 72.2 percent.

With regard to ensuring that children who are emancipated from foster care (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) do not spend most of their formative years in foster care, 21.0 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care in 2003 entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4). Although this percentage is less than the national median of 29.6 percent, it represents a decline in performance on the measure from 2000 to 2003 (+33.8 percent).

Many of the children who are reported as exits to emancipation also appear to be discharged from foster care prior to their 18th birthday. In 2003, for example, 21 of the children exiting foster care were age 18 or older at the time of exit. However, 119 children were reported as exiting to emancipation.

There was one substantive difference with regard to exits to permanency as a function of children's race or ethnicity (measure 3.5). (This was assessed only when a particular race or ethnicity accounted for at least 10 percent of the exits from foster care.) Children of Two or More Races exiting foster care were far more likely to be discharged to a permanent home (94.3 percent) than were Asian children (89.2 percent), Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander children (86.7 percent), or White (non-Hispanic) children (85.2 percent). An additional finding is that the percent of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander children in the foster care population in 2003 (29.2 percent) was more than twice the percent of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander children in the State's child population (10.8 percent).

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, 81.4 percent of all reunifications in Hawaii occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster

care (measure 4.1), which exceeds the national median of 72.0 percent. Performance with regard to this measure did not change from 2000 to 2003. In addition, 0.5 percent of reunifications occurred after the child had been in foster care for at least 36 months, which is less than the national median of 3.5 percent.

Although in 2003 Hawaii had a relatively high percentage of reunifications occurring within 12 months of entry into foster care, it also had a relatively high percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode. In 2003, 10.6 percent of the children entering foster care in Hawaii were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (measure 4.2), which exceeds the national median of 9.5 percent. In addition, 11.8 percent of the children entering foster care in 2003 were re-entering care more than 12 months after a prior foster care episode. Consequently, 22.4 percent of all children entering foster care in 2003 had been in foster care at a prior time.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2003, 49.3 percent of all finalized adoptions in Hawaii occurred within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 5.1). This percent not only exceeds the national median of 23.9 percent, but also represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (+14.1 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, 84.4 percent of the children in foster care in Hawaii for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings (measure 6.1), which is about equal to the national median of 84.2 percent. However, in 2003, 66.2 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months, experienced no more than two placement settings. This percent not only exceeds the national median of 59.1 percent for this measure, but also represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (+10.0 percent change).

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 1.3 percent of the children entering foster care in Hawaii who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percent is not only far less than the national median of 8.3 percent, but also represents improved performance from 2000 to 2003 (+31.6 percent change).

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	369,361	371,105	372,193	372,027
Race/Ethnicity (%)¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4
Asian	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8
Black (non-Hispanic)	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.5
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	11.6	12.0	11.9	12.2
White (non-Hispanic)	83.4	83.0	83.6	83.2
Two or more races	2.2	2.0	1.9	1.9
% Child population in poverty	18.8	15.9	15.0	13.8

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	3,171	3,557	1,947	1,527
Children in foster care on 9/30	1,015	1,114	1,246	1,401
Children adopted	140	132	118	138

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	14,158	38.3 per 1,000	9,959	26.8 per 1,000	9,412	25.3 per 1,000	9,458	25.4 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	3,171	8.6 per 1,000	3,557	9.6 per 1,000	1,947	5.2 per 1,000	1,527	4.1 per 1,000
Child fatalities	1	0.3 per 100,000	4	1.1 per 100,000	2	0.5 per 100,000	2	0.5 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	7.9	8.0	9.8	12.0
1-5 years	31.3	32.1	34.5	34.6
6-10 years	29.3	29.9	26.6	26.0
11-15 years	24.6	24.1	23.8	22.3
16+ years	5.7	5.9	5.3	5.1
Unknown	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	3,171	3,557	1,947	1,527

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	2.8	3.7	4.3	3.5
Asian	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	0.8	0.7	0.8	1.0
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.2
Hispanic (of any race)	9.0	10.4	14.7	13.0
White (non-Hispanic)	81.9	74.6	74.7	77.1
Two or more races	0.0	0.1	0.6	1.2
Unknown	5.0	10.1	4.7	3.7
Number	3,171	3,557	1,947	1,527

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	1.4	3.3	0.8	0.5
Medical neglect	11.2	2.0	2.3	2.0
Neglect	46.4	61.9	67.4	70.1
Physical abuse	21.9	19.9	19.7	16.9
Sexual abuse	10.9	8.3	7.9	7.7
Unknown/missing data	7.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.6	9.1	7.9	9.4
Number	3,171	3,557	1,947	1,527

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	899	989	1,080	1,210	1,127	1,209	1,213	1,292	1,011	1,084	1,047	1,101	1,015	1,114	1,246	1,401
Median length of stay (months)	13.4	11.4	11.2	12.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.3	3.3	2.9	3.2	11.0	11.1	12.3	12.9

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	4.2	3.8	4.4	3.2	9.8	10.4	9.6	13.1	5.0	5.3	5.5	6.4	4.0	4.4	3.4	5.6
1 year	5.7	5.5	5.8	6.9	6.7	6.3	8.3	7.0	5.8	5.9	6.8	5.7	5.4	5.9	7.1	6.0
2 years	6.6	6.9	5.6	6.1	6.7	5.6	7.2	6.5	8.5	6.6	6.9	8.0	6.6	5.4	6.2	5.5
3 years	5.3	4.4	5.5	6.6	5.1	6.0	6.0	7.0	4.6	5.5	5.7	6.7	4.4	5.4	6.6	6.5
4 years	4.8	5.9	4.9	5.6	4.3	5.2	4.9	5.5	5.5	5.9	5.0	5.8	5.9	4.8	5.5	6.1
5 years	4.7	4.9	5.0	4.0	4.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	3.8	5.8	5.6	4.6	4.9	4.9	4.1	6.1
6 years	5.0	3.9	4.6	5.1	3.4	3.9	4.2	4.5	4.1	4.2	4.3	3.9	3.7	4.6	5.0	4.8
7 years	4.2	4.4	4.4	4.1	4.7	5.4	4.7	4.5	4.5	5.1	5.3	4.1	4.6	4.2	4.3	5.0
8 years	5.9	4.1	5.7	4.6	4.4	5.3	4.7	3.9	4.5	4.6	5.3	3.8	4.1	5.6	4.3	4.6
9 years	5.2	6.1	5.5	5.0	5.7	5.5	4.2	4.3	6.3	4.6	3.9	4.4	6.3	5.3	5.0	4.3
10 years	5.0	4.7	5.6	5.1	4.1	4.5	4.7	3.7	4.4	5.2	5.0	4.3	4.5	5.6	5.2	4.3
11 years	4.8	5.1	4.2	5.2	5.3	4.0	4.7	4.0	4.7	3.9	4.7	4.2	5.3	4.1	5.2	5.1
12 years	5.3	5.3	6.4	5.4	5.8	5.1	5.4	5.2	4.5	4.2	5.0	5.0	5.3	6.4	5.2	4.9
13 years	5.7	6.2	4.3	6.6	5.7	5.9	4.8	3.9	5.6	6.4	3.8	5.4	5.9	4.6	6.4	4.8
14 years	5.6	7.2	6.2	5.2	7.9	5.9	6.9	5.7	5.2	6.3	5.7	5.3	7.1	6.3	5.2	6.4
15 years	7.6	7.1	6.5	6.9	5.6	6.9	5.5	6.7	5.7	6.5	4.8	5.7	7.3	6.6	6.9	6.1
16 years	7.0	7.5	7.5	7.6	6.5	5.5	5.7	6.0	5.7	4.5	5.3	5.4	7.3	8.1	7.7	7.5
17 years	6.9	6.7	7.5	6.3	4.1	3.3	3.1	3.2	8.1	4.1	6.5	10.1	6.6	7.6	6.3	6.3
18 years	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.1	5.3	4.8	1.3	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	9.7	9.4	9.2	10.0	5.7	5.2	4.8	4.4	5.6	6.3	5.2	4.4	9.3	7.9	8.3	9.3
Asian	0.2	0.2	0.0	<.1	0.2	0.5	<.1	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.4	<.1	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	2.2	2.6	2.0	1.3	2.2	1.2	0.8	1.5	1.6	1.8	1.5	1.0	2.9	2.0	1.3	1.7
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.2	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	<.1	0.2	<.1	0.2	0.2
Hispanic (of any race)	13.9	9.7	12.7	12.0	10.1	12.0	11.0	14.5	13.5	9.6	11.7	12.3	10.1	12.3	11.8	14.1
White (non-Hispanic)	72.6	78.1	75.4	74.8	76.7	80.6	81.2	77.0	72.3	81.6	80.5	80.3	77.4	77.4	76.7	72.5
Two or more races	0.2	0.0	0.4	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.9	1.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.6	<.1	0.0	1.2	1.7
Unknown	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	5.1	0.3	1.2	1.2	6.5	0.4	0.9	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	185	229	258	255
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	184	228	258	192

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	0.5	0.0	1.9	0.8
1 year	5.4	4.8	4.3	4.3
2 years	4.3	4.4	6.2	6.3
3 years	7.0	5.2	4.3	6.3
4 years	7.6	3.1	5.4	8.6
5 years	4.3	4.4	1.9	7.8
6 years	5.9	6.1	5.0	6.7
7 years	7.0	4.8	4.3	7.1
8 years	3.2	7.4	4.3	6.7
9 years	7.0	7.4	5.0	6.3
10 years	8.6	7.9	8.5	5.1
11 years	5.9	4.8	6.6	6.7
12 years	7.6	7.4	6.2	5.9
13 years	6.5	8.3	9.7	4.3
14 years	6.5	7.4	7.0	6.3
15 years	5.4	6.1	8.5	3.9
16 years	4.9	7.0	6.6	5.1
17 years	1.6	2.6	4.3	1.6
18 years	0.5	0.9	0.0	0.4
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	14.6	9.2	9.3	13.3
Asian	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	5.9	1.7	1.6	0.4
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.4
Hispanic (of any race)	8.1	10.0	9.7	17.6
White (non-Hispanic)	70.8	78.6	79.5	65.5
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.7
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	140	132	118	138

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	7.9	2.3	2.5	3.6
1 year	14.3	12.1	11.0	8.7
2 years	17.1	15.9	11.0	12.3
3 years	5.0	5.3	10.2	12.3
4 years	8.6	12.1	9.3	8.7
5 years	2.9	9.8	6.8	5.8
6 years	5.0	8.3	5.1	5.1
7 years	7.1	3.8	7.6	6.5
8 years	7.9	3.8	7.6	5.1
9 years	6.4	1.5	5.9	1.4
10 years	4.3	6.8	5.1	6.5
11 years	2.9	5.3	4.2	5.8
12 years	5.0	1.5	3.4	3.6
13 years	2.1	4.5	4.2	5.1
14 years	0.0	3.8	1.7	4.3
15 years	2.1	1.5	0.8	1.4
16 years	0.7	1.5	3.4	0.7
17 years	0.7	0.0	0.0	2.9
18 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	4.3	13.6	2.5	8.0
Asian	1.4	0.8	1.7	2.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	2.9	8.3	14.4	2.2
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	3.6	3.0	0.8	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	23.6	12.1	13.6	7.2
White (non-Hispanic)	60.7	62.1	66.9	80.4
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	3.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	—	90.7	95.8	93.5
Children with one or more recurrences	—	9.3	4.2	6.5
Number	—	1,747	990	633

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	0.36	0.30	0.13
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	99.64	99.70	99.87
Number	—	1,941	2,030	2,316

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	9.8	10.1	8.8	11.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.4
Reunification	81.7	81.5	81.8	80.5
Other	7.7	8.4	9.2	8.2
Missing data	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,011	1,084	1,047	1,101

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	39.4	55.2	41.9	58.1
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8
Reunification	57.6	31.0	41.9	31.0
Other	3.0	13.8	16.3	10.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	66	58	86	129

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.3	0.3	1.0	1.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3
Reunification	78.9	77.9	73.3	77.0
Other	20.1	21.8	25.3	21.7
Missing data	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	298	317	288	304

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	20.5	10.3	15.5	19.7
Children older than 12 at entry	79.5	89.7	84.5	80.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	44	58	71	66

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/American Indian				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	10.5	27.9	7.4	22.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.3	36.8	6.3	0.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	77.2	58.8	74.1	64.6	75.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	93.8	52.6	81.3	90.9
Other	12.3	13.2	16.7	12.5	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.5	12.5	9.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	57	68	54	48	4	4	0	4	16	19	16	11

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	21.3	7.7	10.6	6.7	8.6	8.6	8.8	11.4
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.3
Reunification	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	75.0	81.7	81.3	85.2	82.1	83.6	82.2	80.2
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	3.7	10.6	7.3	7.4	8.2	7.8	8.9	8.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	0	0	2	1	136	104	123	135	731	885	843	884

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	92.4	100.0	88.9	90.9	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	7.6	0.0	11.1	9.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	66	4	9	11	1	0	0	7	0	0	0	0

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	81.5	88.9	83.5	84.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	12.5	8.0	13.0	13.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	4.1	1.4	2.3	1.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.2	0.5	0.8	0.3
48 or more mos.	0.6	0.8	0.1	0.2
Missing data	0.1	0.5	0.2	0.2
Number	826	883	856	886

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	81.3	83.9	83.6	81.0
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	10.3	11.9	11.5	11.9
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	6.7	3.1	4.9	7.0
Missing data	1.7	1.1	0.0	<.1
Number	1,127	1,209	1,213	1,292

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	0.0	0.0	6.5	1.7
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	18.2	33.6	23.9	19.8
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	31.3	29.1	26.1	44.6
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	18.2	21.8	26.1	21.5
48 or more mos.	32.3	15.5	17.4	12.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	99	110	92	121

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	82.3	81.1	84.9	85.5	49.6	49.3	48.8	53.2	55.6	39.5	33.4	35.8	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	17.7	18.8	15.1	14.5	50.4	50.7	51.2	46.8	44.4	60.5	66.6	64.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,254	1,397	1,364	1,448	339	371	455	506	432	423	464	542	1	7	10	6

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	4.2	4.4	6.3	3.3
Institutions	2.0	2.0	3.0	2.4
Other settings	93.7	93.7	90.6	94.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	783	870	886	952

Idaho [STATE COMMENT]

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of Idaho's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, 6.5 percent of the children in Idaho who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another substantiated or indicated maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This is not only less than the national median of 7.1 percent, but also represents an improvement in performance from 2001 (no data are available for 2000) to 2003 (-30.1 percent change).

The reduction in the percentage of children experiencing maltreatment recurrence from 2000 to 2003 coincides with a reduction in the child maltreatment victim rate over that time period. The child victims rate declined from 8.6 children per 1,000 children in the population in 2000 to 4.1 children per 1,000 children in the population in 2003.

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

In 2003, 0.13 percent of the children in foster care in Idaho were found to be maltreated by a foster parent or facility staff member (measure 2.1). This percent is not only less than the national median of 0.39 percent, but also represents an improvement in performance from 2001 (data were not available for 2000) to 2003 (-63.9 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003, 91.9 percent of children in Idaho exiting foster care (measure 3.1) were discharged to a permanent home, which exceeds the national median of 86.3 percent. Also, 89.9 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.2), which exceeds the national median of 79.5 percent. Furthermore, 78.3 percent of the children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.3), which exceeds the national median of 72.2 percent.

In 2003, 19.7 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4). Although this percent is less than the national median of 29.6 percent, performance on this measure declined from 2000 to 2003 (+33.8 percent).

Many of the children who are reported as exits to emancipation appear to be discharged from foster care prior to their 18th birthday. In 2003, for example, only 15 of the children exiting foster care were age 18 or older at the time of exit. However, 66 children were reported as exiting to emancipation.

There were no differences with regard to exits to permanency as a function of children's race or ethnicity (measure 3.5). (This was assessed only when a particular race or ethnicity accounted for at least 10 percent of the exits from foster care.) White (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care were as likely to be discharged to a permanent home (91.9 percent) as were Hispanic children exiting foster care (92.6 percent).

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, 84.5 percent of all reunifications occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1), which exceeds the national median of 72.0 percent. Performance with regard to this measure did not change from 2000 to 2003. In addition, only 0.5 percent of reunifications occurred after the child had been in foster care for at least 36 months, which is less than the national median of 3.5 percent.

In contrast, in 2003, 11.9 percent of the children entering foster care were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (measure 4.2). This percent not only exceeds the national median of 9.5 percent, but also represents a decline in performance from 2000 to 2003 (+15.5 percent change). In addition, 7.0 percent of the children entering foster care were entering more than 12 months after a prior foster care episode. Overall, 18.9 percent of the children entering foster care in 2003 had been in foster care at a prior time.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2003, 21.5 percent of all finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 5.1). Although this is less than the national median of 23.9 percent, it represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (+18.3 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, 85.5 percent of the children in foster care for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings (measure 6.1), which is about equal to the national median of 84.2 percent. However, in 2003, 53.2 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months, experienced no more than two placement settings, which is less than the national median of 59.1 percent.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 5.7 percent of the children entering foster care in Idaho who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percent not only is less than the national median of 8.3 percent, but also represents a performance improvement from 2000 to 2003 (-8.1 percent).

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	3,246,640	3,244,892	3,235,189	3,230,606
Race/Ethnicity (%)¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
Asian	3.0	3.2	3.2	3.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	18.5	18.4	17.8	17.7
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	17.0	17.6	17.3	17.8
White (non-Hispanic)	59.2	58.9	59.9	59.3
Two or more races	2.0	1.7	1.6	1.7
% Child population in poverty	17.6	15.8	17.7	17.4

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	31,447	27,557	28,160	28,344
Children in foster care on 9/30	29,565	28,202	24,344	21,608
Children adopted	5,664	4,106	3,634	2,701

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	146,792	45.2 per 1,000	142,967	44.1 per 1,000	137,321	42.5 per 1,000	134,919	41.8 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	31,447	9.7 per 1,000	27,557	8.5 per 1,000	28,160	8.7 per 1,000	28,344	8.8 per 1,000
Child fatalities	76	2.3 per 100,000	79	2.4 per 100,000	70	2.2 per 100,000	61	1.9 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	13.7	13.9	13.8	13.4
1-5 years	33.3	33.2	34.0	33.5
6-10 years	29.2	28.6	28.1	28.1
11-15 years	19.9	20.3	20.3	20.7
16+ years	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.9
Unknown	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.4
Number	31,447	27,557	28,160	28,344

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Asian	3.6	0.3	0.3	0.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	38.4	37.2	36.3	35.2
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	9.4	10.0	9.3	10.3
White (non-Hispanic)	48.0	48.4	51.0	52.1
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	0.5	4.1	3.1	1.9
Number	31,447	27,557	28,160	28,344

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Medical neglect	3.4	3.1	3.5	3.4
Neglect	44.0	43.7	55.3	58.3
Physical abuse	12.7	12.8	35.5	34.8
Sexual abuse	10.1	10.0	16.2	19.2
Unknown/missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	43.7	43.5	6.2	0.0
Number	31,447	27,557	28,160	28,344

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	33,265	30,202	26,353	22,813	6,607	6,350	5,973	5,794	10,308	8,350	7,986	7,002	29,565	28,202	24,344	21,608
Median length of stay (months)	39.5	42.4	40.6	39.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	45.5	40.4	38.4	35.1	38.3	41.1	40.0	36.2

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	3.7	3.3	3.8	4.1	22.3	23.4	23.9	23.0	2.0	2.8	2.8	3.2	3.5	3.6	3.9	4.1
1 year	5.2	5.1	4.9	5.8	7.0	7.7	8.2	7.5	3.3	4.3	4.6	5.8	5.2	4.8	5.5	5.5
2 years	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.2	5.8	6.3	6.5	6.6	5.6	6.0	7.0	6.4	5.6	5.4	5.1	6.0
3 years	5.6	5.0	5.3	5.1	5.2	5.9	5.7	5.5	7.9	8.0	7.7	6.6	5.1	5.2	5.0	5.0
4 years	5.3	4.8	4.5	4.8	4.3	5.0	5.5	5.3	7.0	6.5	6.7	6.3	4.7	4.4	4.8	4.6
5 years	5.5	4.6	4.5	4.1	4.9	5.1	4.7	4.5	6.6	5.5	5.0	6.0	4.6	4.5	4.1	4.4
6 years	5.5	4.9	4.2	4.3	4.1	4.5	4.6	4.6	6.5	6.1	4.9	5.4	5.0	4.2	4.3	3.7
7 years	5.3	5.0	4.6	4.1	4.4	4.3	4.1	4.3	6.4	6.0	5.2	4.6	4.8	4.6	4.1	4.1
8 years	5.5	4.9	4.4	4.2	3.6	4.4	4.2	4.3	6.1	5.7	5.4	5.0	4.8	4.5	4.2	4.0
9 years	5.2	5.0	4.6	4.1	4.0	4.2	3.8	4.2	5.8	5.5	5.5	4.8	4.8	4.6	4.1	3.9
10 years	4.6	5.0	4.4	4.2	3.3	4.1	4.0	4.1	5.3	5.5	4.6	4.4	4.8	4.5	4.2	4.1
11 years	4.5	4.5	4.7	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.0	3.8	4.7	4.6	4.4	3.8	4.3	4.8	4.3	4.0
12 years	4.2	4.7	4.5	4.6	4.0	4.1	4.0	4.6	3.7	3.6	4.0	4.0	4.5	4.6	4.7	4.4
13 years	4.2	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.1	4.0	4.2	4.5	3.2	3.5	3.5	3.7	4.5	4.9	4.7	4.9
14 years	4.5	4.8	5.0	5.0	4.5	4.1	3.9	4.1	2.5	2.7	3.2	3.2	4.6	5.1	5.0	4.9
15 years	4.9	5.2	5.2	5.4	4.2	4.0	3.9	3.8	2.3	2.8	2.6	2.8	5.2	5.2	5.4	5.3
16 years	5.3	5.7	5.8	5.7	4.0	3.1	2.7	3.2	2.2	2.4	2.6	2.6	5.8	5.6	5.6	5.9
17 years	5.6	5.7	6.1	6.2	2.6	1.3	1.5	1.7	2.2	2.0	2.2	2.1	5.9	5.9	6.0	5.9
18 years	4.6	5.0	5.2	5.7	1.9	0.3	0.3	0.3	5.6	5.0	4.7	4.6	5.2	5.1	5.6	5.7
19 years	3.2	3.9	4.4	4.5	1.0	<.1	<.1	0.1	3.0	2.6	3.2	3.4	4.0	4.3	4.4	4.7
20 years	2.0	2.7	3.3	3.7	0.6	0.0	<.1	<.1	3.2	4.9	7.7	8.3	3.0	3.6	4.0	4.0
Missing data	0.1	<.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	<.1	<.1	0.0	4.8	4.1	2.3	3.1	0.1	0.6	0.9	0.9

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.1	<.1	0.1	0.2	<.1	0.2	<.1	0.1	0.2	<.1	0.1	0.1	<.1	0.1
Asian	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	75.6	74.3	72.4	69.6	58.4	55.1	53.4	53.6	71.0	66.8	66.1	62.4	73.4	72.2	69.7	67.7
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	5.3	5.1	5.3	5.6	5.9	6.5	6.8	5.5	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.4	5.1	5.2	5.5	5.6
White (non-Hispanic)	17.4	18.7	20.3	22.4	32.3	35.1	36.1	38.1	20.8	25.0	25.7	29.2	19.5	20.5	22.5	24.4
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	1.5	1.6	1.8	2.1	3.1	2.9	3.4	2.4	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.7	1.7	1.8	2.1	2.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	10,727	8,963	6,225	3,811
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	5,246	4,378	3,578	3,199

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	4.2	4.3	2.9	0.9
1 year	7.3	6.8	6.2	3.5
2 years	8.6	8.4	7.1	6.2
3 years	7.9	8.3	7.7	6.1
4 years	7.1	6.5	7.3	6.3
5 years	6.6	6.5	6.2	6.3
6 years	7.5	6.1	6.2	5.4
7 years	7.5	6.8	5.9	5.9
8 years	7.4	6.6	6.2	5.5
9 years	7.3	6.9	6.2	6.2
10 years	6.8	6.3	6.5	6.5
11 years	5.7	6.6	6.5	6.7
12 years	5.2	5.8	7.0	7.1
13 years	3.9	4.9	6.1	8.0
14 years	3.2	4.0	5.3	7.5
15 years	2.7	3.5	4.6	7.4
16 years	0.6	0.7	1.1	2.5
17 years	0.4	0.3	0.5	1.2
18 years	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.4
19 years	<.1	<.1	0.2	0.2
20+ years	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.2
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.1	<.1	<.1
Asian	<.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	74.1	71.9	69.9	69.7
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	4.4	4.3	3.8	3.5
White (non-Hispanic)	19.4	21.7	23.8	24.6
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	1.8	1.9	2.4	2.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	5,664	4,106	3,634	2,701

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4
1 year	3.1	4.0	4.2	6.2
2 years	7.0	7.4	10.0	9.5
3 years	11.0	11.9	11.7	9.9
4 years	9.6	9.0	9.1	10.0
5 years	9.0	7.8	7.0	8.9
6 years	8.7	8.0	6.4	7.4
7 years	8.5	8.1	7.3	6.3
8 years	8.4	8.2	6.8	6.7
9 years	7.8	7.2	7.7	6.3
10 years	7.1	7.2	6.3	6.6
11 years	5.7	6.0	6.1	5.5
12 years	4.6	4.8	4.8	5.4
13 years	3.6	3.7	4.6	4.1
14 years	2.2	2.5	2.9	3.0
15 years	1.6	1.8	2.0	1.9
16 years	0.9	1.2	1.3	0.8
17 years	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.6
18 years	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2
19 years	<.1	<.1	0.1	<.1
20+ years	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.1
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	<.1	0.2	0.2	0.0
Asian	0.1	<.1	0.1	0.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	76.9	77.1	72.3	68.4
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	4.8	4.6	5.3	4.3
White (non-Hispanic)	16.0	16.5	20.4	24.0
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	2.1	1.5	1.6	3.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	90.3	89.9	92.5	92.5
Children with one or more recurrences	9.7	10.1	7.5	7.5
Number	15,391	13,074	13,232	13,172

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.72	0.57	0.64	0.53
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.28	99.43	99.36	99.47
Number	37,173	34,542	30,348	27,093

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	54.4	46.6	42.8	37.8
Guardianship	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.3
Reunification	28.8	34.7	37.1	41.5
Other	14.5	14.5	16.3	18.3
Missing data	2.3	4.1	3.8	2.1
Number	10,308	8,350	7,986	7,002

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	43.2	38.2	41.7	38.0
Guardianship	0.0	<.1	0.1	0.4
Reunification	23.4	28.1	26.2	27.8
Other	26.8	24.6	26.9	31.7
Missing data	6.6	9.1	5.0	2.2
Number	1,633	1,617	1,998	2,070

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	2.8	2.6	2.6	3.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.3
Reunification	31.9	42.2	43.2	47.4
Other	57.4	46.4	47.2	45.3
Missing data	7.9	8.8	6.8	4.1
Number	1,552	1,170	1,057	981

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	38.1	53.7	61.0	65.1
Children older than 12 at entry	61.1	46.3	38.9	34.9
Missing data	0.8	0.0	0.2	0.0
Number	1,350	1,131	1,250	1,238

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/American Indian				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	55.6	100.0	57.1	0.0	30.0	7.1	33.3	21.4	60.1	55.0	47.7	41.8
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.2
Reunification	22.2	0.0	28.6	40.0	55.0	71.4	50.0	42.9	23.5	25.9	29.4	33.9
Other	22.2	0.0	14.3	60.0	10.0	21.4	16.7	28.6	14.2	15.7	19.0	22.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	7.1	2.2	3.2	3.8	2.1
Number	9	10	14	5	20	14	12	14	7,315	5,576	5,279	4,368

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	41.9	37.0	39.8	31.0	38.4	27.3	31.3	30.2
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.5
Reunification	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	43.6	46.6	47.3	52.0	42.1	54.0	53.6	54.9
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.7	12.1	10.3	14.9	16.6	12.4	11.3	12.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.8	4.3	2.6	1.1	2.9	6.3	3.9	2.2
Number	0	0	0	0	613	489	467	377	2,149	2,084	2,050	2,046

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	58.9	34.5	34.1	43.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	31.7	52.0	51.2	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	9.4	6.8	10.4	5.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	6.8	4.3	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	202	177	164	192	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	40.2	51.7	52.3	58.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	17.4	17.3	19.3	16.5
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	11.9	12.4	10.3	9.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	9.2	5.0	5.2	5.5
48 or more mos.	17.2	11.9	11.7	9.0
Missing data	4.1	1.7	1.2	1.3
Number	2,970	2,901	2,965	2,904

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	73.2	81.5	83.7	81.5
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	14.3	8.8	8.2	9.1
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	7.8	9.4	7.8	9.0
Missing data	4.6	0.3	0.2	0.4
Number	6,607	6,350	5,973	5,794

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	1.0	1.5	2.2	2.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	7.3	7.4	8.5	11.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	14.1	17.8	19.2	18.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	21.8	19.1	19.9	18.3
48 or more mos.	55.3	54.2	50.2	49.3
Missing data	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	5,606	3,891	3,415	2,646

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	80.2	81.0	80.8	82.6	63.3	63.8	64.0	63.7	36.7	33.4	31.3	29.9	78.1	100.0	93.0	93.2
Children with 3 or more placements	18.0	19.0	19.2	17.3	36.3	36.2	36.0	36.3	63.2	66.6	68.7	70.1	0.7	0.0	7.0	6.8
Number	6,733	6,778	6,436	6,231	5,674	4,751	4,834	4,349	27,169	24,966	20,999	17,955	297	57	57	73

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2
Institutions	4.2	2.3	2.0	1.8
Other settings	95.6	97.4	97.7	98.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	4,936	5,149	4,882	4,680

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Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

The following are Illinois comments on the State data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2003: Report to Congress*.

Section B (Maltreatment Type of Child Victims): In the Maltreatment section, the reason the percentage of physical and sexual abuse increased over time while the percentage of “other” decreased was because, prior to 2003, Illinois counted risk of physical and sexual abuse under “other.” Per instructions from NCANDS, those are now counted in physical or sexual abuse.

Section C (Children in Foster Care): There are several issues to be addressed in this section. In 2004, Illinois rewrote and resubmitted AFCARS data back to 2000. Prior to the rewrite, guardianships and children on run at the end of the reporting period were being counted improperly but were being properly counted at the beginning of the next period. Illinois’ corrected submissions were not utilized in this report.

Outcome measure 3.1 (Exits from Foster Care): Because Illinois was not counting guardianships properly, they were falling into the category of “Other.” For each year depicted in this report, approximately 13 percent of all exits were to guardianship. Less than 5 percent of exits were in “Other.”

Outcome measure 5.1 (Time to Adoption): It is noted that Illinois was below the national average on adoptions achieved within 24 months. Illinois completed 2,700 adoptions in 2003 and about 16,000 for the four years in this report. Many of the children were longer-term cases able to achieve adoption even though it took over 24 months. As part of our efforts to improve performance in this measure, Illinois is actively working with the county courts to achieve more expeditious terminations of parental rights.

Outcome measure 3.4 (Exits to Emancipation): It is noted that an increasingly large percentage of exits to emancipation involve children younger than 12 when entering care. This is factual. The Illinois ward population has decreased substantially in recent years as more children move to permanency, but those legacy cases remaining often have been in the system for over four years. Illinois has begun a new program called Lifetime Approach that addresses both the needs of children who will achieve timely permanency and those older youth who must be prepared for an independent life.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of Illinois performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, 7.5 percent of the children in Illinois who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another substantiated or indicated maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This is about equal to the national median of 7.1 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (-22.7 percent change).

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

In 2003, 0.53 percent of the children in foster care were found to be maltreated by a foster parent or facility staff member (measure 2.1). Although this percent exceeds the national median of 0.39 percent, it represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (-26.4 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003, 79.6 percent of children exiting foster care (measure 3.1) in Illinois were discharged to a permanent home, which is lower than the national median of 86.3 percent. Also, 66.2 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.2), which is lower than the national median of 79.5 percent. Furthermore, only 50.7 percent of the children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home, which is considerably lower than the national median of 72.2 percent.

In 2003, 65.1 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4). This percent not only exceeds the national median of 29.6 percent, but also represents a decline in performance from 2000 to 2003 (+70.9 percent change).

There were differences in Illinois with regard to exits to permanency as a function of children's race (measure 3.5). (This was assessed only when a particular race or ethnicity accounted for at least 10 percent of the exits from foster care.) White (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care were more likely to be discharged to a permanent home (85.6 percent) than were Black (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care (75.9 percent). In addition, the percentage of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the foster care population in 2003 (67.7 percent) far exceeded the percent of these children in the State's population (17.7 percent).

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, only 58.5 percent of all reunifications occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1). Although this percent is less than the national median of 72.0 percent, performance on this measure improved from 2000 to 2003 (+45.5 percent change). Also in 2003, 14.5 percent of reunifications occurred after the child had been in foster care for at least 36 months, which is higher than the national median of 3.5 percent and among the highest in the nation. However, performance on this measure also improved from 2000 to 2003 (-45.1 percent change).

With regard to re-entry into foster care, in 2003, 9.1 percent of the children entering foster care in Illinois were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (measure 4.2). This percent is about equal to the national median of 9.5 percent, and represents a performance improvement from 2000 to 2003 (-36.4 percent change). Also in 2003, 9.0 percent of the children entering foster care were re-entering more than 12 months after a prior foster care episode. Overall, 18.1 percent of all children entering foster care in 2003 had been in foster care at a prior time, compared to 2000, when 22.1 percent of the children entering foster care had been in foster care at a prior time.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2003, only 14.2 percent of all finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 5.1). Although this is less than the national median of 23.9 percent, it represents a substantial improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (+71.1 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, 82.6 percent of the children in foster care in Illinois for less than 12 months had two or fewer placement settings during their time in foster care (measure 6.1). This percent is slightly less than the national median of 84.2 percent. However, 63.7 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months, had two or fewer placement settings during their time in foster care, which exceeds the national median of 59.1 percent.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 2.0 percent of the children entering foster care in Illinois who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percent not only is less than the national median of 8.3 percent, but also represents a performance improvement from 2000 to 2003 (-55.6 percent change).

Indiana [CONTEXT DATA]

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	1,576,395	1,590,648	1,598,134	1,603,901
Race/Ethnicity (%)¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	10.3	10.5	10.1	10.1
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	4.8	5.0	4.9	5.1
White (non-Hispanic)	81.6	81.4	82.0	81.7
Two or more races	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.9
% Child population in poverty	10.5	11.3	10.5	13.7

Child Welfare Summary

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	21,890	21,128	20,416	21,205
Children in foster care on 9/30	7,482	8,383	8,640	8,899
Children adopted	1,160	901	923	761

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information

	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	23,369	14.8 per 1,000	53,503	33.6 per 1,000	50,163	31.4 per 1,000	52,195	32.5 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	21,890	13.9 per 1,000	21,128	13.3 per 1,000	20,416	12.8 per 1,000	21,205	13.2 per 1,000
Child fatalities	44	2.8 per 100,000	46	2.9 per 100,000	58	3.6 per 100,000	49	3.1 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	8.1	9.0	9.4	8.7
1-5 years	27.3	29.1	30.4	30.4
6-10 years	29.0	28.6	28.0	28.1
11-15 years	27.2	28.0	26.9	27.5
16+ years	4.6	5.1	5.2	5.2
Unknown	3.8	0.1	0.1	0.2
Number	21,890	21,128	20,416	21,205

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)⁴

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1
Asian	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	17.9	16.4	17.6	16.0
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	4.2	4.5	4.3	4.8
White (non-Hispanic)	74.6	75.5	73.9	75.1
Two or more races	1.6	2.1	3.0	3.0
Unknown	1.3	0.8	0.7	0.7
Number	21,890	21,128	20,416	21,205

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁵

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Medical neglect	3.6	3.2	2.8	2.9
Neglect	66.2	64.9	66.6	66.9
Physical abuse	18.1	18.2	17.8	17.6
Sexual abuse	19.2	20.5	20.6	20.3
Unknown/missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	21,890	21,128	20,416	21,205

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	7,084	7,723	7,385	7,622	5,576	5,399	5,844	6,179	5,197	4,750	4,590	4,902	7,482	8,383	8,640	8,899
Median length of stay (months)	17.9	16.6	15.1	13.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10.2	11.2	10.9	9.7	12.7	13.9	12.1	12.2

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	4.3	4.2	5.6	5.8	13.3	14.8	15.2	15.1	5.2	4.7	4.8	4.6	5.0	5.5	6.1	6.5
1 year	5.5	5.7	6.2	7.5	6.3	6.8	7.1	6.8	5.2	5.6	6.7	6.8	5.8	6.0	7.4	7.1
2 years	5.2	5.8	6.0	6.0	5.8	6.2	6.7	6.8	6.7	6.9	7.4	7.2	5.7	6.0	6.0	6.8
3 years	4.6	5.3	4.7	5.9	5.3	5.2	5.7	5.8	5.5	7.1	5.5	6.8	5.0	4.8	5.8	6.1
4 years	5.3	4.5	4.8	4.5	4.2	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.4	5.4	5.7	5.7	4.2	4.8	4.6	5.2
5 years	4.9	4.8	4.2	4.5	4.7	4.4	5.0	5.1	4.7	5.3	5.3	4.9	4.7	4.2	4.7	4.7
6 years	4.8	4.8	4.1	4.5	4.9	4.2	4.7	5.3	5.4	4.9	5.0	5.1	4.7	4.2	4.3	4.8
7 years	4.9	4.6	4.5	4.1	4.6	4.1	4.1	4.2	5.3	5.2	4.2	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.0	4.4
8 years	5.3	5.1	4.5	4.4	5.0	4.1	4.8	4.5	4.6	4.0	4.9	4.2	5.0	4.4	4.3	4.3
9 years	5.0	5.0	4.8	4.7	5.1	4.2	4.1	4.1	5.4	4.5	4.3	4.9	4.9	4.6	4.5	4.0
10 years	5.0	5.0	5.1	4.6	5.0	4.6	4.4	4.3	4.9	4.7	4.7	4.1	4.9	4.8	4.5	4.5
11 years	4.7	5.3	5.0	4.9	4.4	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.2	4.4	4.1	4.5	5.1	5.0	4.8	4.3
12 years	5.2	5.6	5.5	5.3	5.4	5.1	4.9	4.5	4.1	4.5	4.9	4.6	5.3	5.2	5.1	4.8
13 years	5.9	5.8	5.6	5.4	5.8	5.7	5.3	5.2	5.2	4.9	4.8	4.4	5.8	5.7	5.5	5.1
14 years	6.7	6.5	6.8	6.0	6.6	6.0	5.3	5.7	5.5	5.3	5.0	5.3	6.7	6.5	5.9	6.0
15 years	6.8	7.2	6.9	6.5	6.3	6.8	5.7	5.4	6.0	6.1	5.3	5.0	7.2	7.0	6.6	6.1
16 years	6.8	6.4	7.0	7.0	4.6	5.4	5.2	4.8	5.5	4.5	5.3	5.1	6.5	7.2	7.1	6.4
17 years	6.1	5.4	6.1	6.0	2.5	2.9	2.7	2.9	5.1	5.1	5.5	5.9	5.7	6.2	5.9	5.9
18 years	2.3	2.1	2.0	2.1	<.1	0.1	0.0	<.1	4.8	5.0	5.3	5.0	2.5	2.3	2.4	2.3
19 years	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.1	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.5
20 years	<.1	0.1	0.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
Missing data	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.2	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.1	<.1	<.1

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1	<.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2
Asian	<.1	<.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	<.1	0.2	0.1	<.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	42.9	41.1	38.1	35.9	31.3	30.5	30.1	27.9	33.4	34.5	32.3	28.8	40.7	38.0	35.8	34.3
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	3.8	4.1	4.7	5.2	4.5	5.7	5.2	6.4	4.2	4.8	4.8	6.2	4.0	4.8	5.0	5.5
White (non-Hispanic)	51.6	52.8	53.9	54.6	61.2	59.3	59.9	61.1	60.1	58.4	59.5	61.0	53.0	53.7	55.0	55.6
Two or more races	1.1	1.4	2.5	3.7	2.2	3.4	4.3	3.8	1.7	1.7	2.8	3.3	1.5	2.6	3.6	4.0
Unknown	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	1,959	2,392	2,364	2,417
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	966	1,126	1,060	1,089

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	1.9	1.6	1.2	2.0
1 year	5.6	5.5	8.2	7.2
2 years	7.2	6.6	7.1	9.0
3 years	6.2	6.1	6.9	7.5
4 years	5.1	5.8	5.5	7.0
5 years	6.0	5.5	5.2	5.8
6 years	6.6	5.7	5.4	6.1
7 years	6.1	6.4	5.3	5.5
8 years	6.3	6.2	5.6	5.2
9 years	7.0	6.9	6.0	5.0
10 years	5.7	6.7	6.2	6.3
11 years	7.2	6.1	6.6	5.4
12 years	6.5	7.1	6.2	6.3
13 years	7.2	6.0	6.2	6.0
14 years	5.6	7.0	6.1	5.4
15 years	5.0	5.5	6.7	4.8
16 years	3.1	3.3	3.0	3.3
17 years	1.2	1.5	1.9	1.7
18 years	0.4	0.3	0.8	0.5
19 years	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.2
20+ years	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.5
Asian	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	47.7	45.7	41.3	40.0
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	3.1	2.8	4.2	5.0
White (non-Hispanic)	47.3	48.7	50.4	49.4
Two or more races	1.4	2.3	3.4	4.9
Unknown	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	1,160	901	923	761

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	0.6	1.1	0.5	0.8
1 year	4.0	5.7	4.9	5.4
2 years	8.6	9.4	10.5	12.0
3 years	8.6	9.9	8.5	9.7
4 years	8.6	7.9	8.5	7.2
5 years	8.7	7.9	7.8	5.4
6 years	8.4	8.4	7.3	7.0
7 years	8.1	8.2	7.4	5.8
8 years	7.8	7.0	6.1	5.4
9 years	6.8	6.0	5.9	5.9
10 years	6.9	5.9	6.7	6.3
11 years	5.2	4.4	5.2	6.6
12 years	4.5	5.3	5.4	6.0
13 years	3.6	5.2	4.3	4.9
14 years	3.4	2.8	3.7	4.3
15 years	2.4	1.7	2.9	2.9
16 years	2.0	2.0	2.9	2.5
17 years	1.4	1.1	1.5	1.6
18 years	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.4
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	43.1	49.8	43.3	43.5
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	2.4	3.8	1.6	4.7
White (non-Hispanic)	52.7	44.6	52.7	49.4
Two or more races	1.3	1.3	2.3	2.0
Unknown	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	91.8	92.9	93.1	93.0
Children with one or more recurrences	8.2	7.1	6.9	7.0
Number	10,096	10,056	10,123	9,485

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.44	0.56	0.73	0.41
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.56	99.44	99.27	99.59
Number	11,468	12,029	12,076	12,784

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	20.8	23.5	24.6	18.1
Guardianship	6.1	5.9	7.1	8.2
Reunification	62.0	59.6	57.8	62.1
Other	7.6	7.2	7.3	6.6
Missing data	3.5	3.8	3.2	4.9
Number	5,197	4,750	4,590	4,902

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	33.9	39.9	37.5	25.3
Guardianship	4.7	1.8	4.0	5.8
Reunification	45.0	40.5	42.7	48.8
Other	13.7	14.7	12.4	14.3
Missing data	2.6	3.0	3.4	5.8
Number	380	333	323	447

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	2.0	1.9	3.2	2.1
Guardianship	3.6	4.7	5.0	7.4
Reunification	70.3	70.3	65.0	62.3
Other	19.6	18.5	20.3	18.3
Missing data	4.4	4.6	6.4	10.0
Number	1,243	1,133	1,055	1,194

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	37.4	39.2	31.5	30.7
Children older than 12 at entry	61.9	60.8	67.7	68.5
Missing data	0.7	0.0	0.8	0.8
Number	294	260	257	254

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	27.3	8.3	0.0	20.0	28.6	0.0	0.0	5.9	27.4	34.0	35.2	27.3
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.3	0.0	0.0	5.9	7.0	5.6	7.5	7.2
Reunification	72.7	83.3	71.4	60.0	57.1	100.0	81.8	82.4	55.1	51.3	45.9	55.2
Other	0.0	0.0	28.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.1	0.0	7.3	6.1	8.2	7.1
Missing data	0.0	8.3	0.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	9.1	5.9	3.3	3.1	3.1	3.2
Number	11	12	7	5	7	6	11	17	1,736	1,637	1,481	1,412

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.3	20.1	10.8	14.2	17.8	17.8	20.2	14.5
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.1	6.6	10.8	4.3	5.8	6.1	6.8	9.1
Reunification	50.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	77.2	64.6	67.1	69.6	64.4	63.6	62.8	64.0
Other	50.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	4.6	4.8	8.6	5.6	8.2	8.2	6.9	6.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8	3.9	2.7	6.3	3.8	4.3	3.3	5.6
Number	4	0	1	2	219	229	222	303	3,123	2,776	2,731	2,988

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	12.5	0.0	14.3	20.0	19.5	22.7	14.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.3	4.9	4.7	9.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	100.0	87.5	88.9	71.4	73.3	70.7	68.0	68.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	0.0	11.1	0.0	1.1	4.9	1.6	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.3	2.2	0.0	3.1	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	7	8	9	14	90	82	128	161	0	0	0	0

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	76.9	75.7	77.8	76.4
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	15.0	15.1	15.1	17.0
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	3.3	4.9	4.2	4.1
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.8	2.1	1.2	1.2
48 or more mos.	2.4	1.9	1.7	1.3
Missing data	0.6	0.4	<.1	0.0
Number	3,224	2,833	2,653	3,043

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	80.0	79.0	79.6	80.6
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	12.4	12.4	11.6	9.1
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	6.7	8.0	8.1	9.1
Missing data	0.9	0.6	0.8	1.2
Number	5,576	5,399	5,844	6,179

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	3.3	4.6	4.6	2.2
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	20.2	20.7	22.8	23.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	25.2	32.1	33.2	33.6
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	15.6	15.9	14.3	18.9
48 or more mos.	35.7	26.7	25.2	21.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,080	1,115	1,128	889

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	86.3	85.9	86.2	86.9	62.6	64.8	60.9	63.1	41.9	41.1	38.8	35.9	90.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	13.5	14.0	13.6	13.0	37.4	35.2	39.1	36.9	58.1	58.9	61.2	64.1	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	6,438	6,245	6,696	7,202	2,174	2,606	2,661	2,968	4,038	4,263	3,844	3,607	10	8	28	24

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	3.4	1.4	1.1	1.2
Institutions	4.9	5.7	5.9	6.7
Other settings	91.5	92.6	92.9	92.1
Missing data	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.0
Number	3,804	3,875	4,358	4,625

Indiana [STATE COMMENT]

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of Indiana's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, 7.0 percent of the children in Indiana who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percent is about equal to the national median of 7.1 percent and represents a performance improvement from 2000 to 2003 (-14.6 percent change).

In 2003, the rate of child maltreatment victims was 13.2 child victims per 1,000 children in the State population, which is higher than the national median of 10.6 child victims per 1,000 children in the population. This rate did not change substantially from 2000 to 2003.

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

In 2003, 0.41 percent of the children in foster care were found to be maltreated by a foster parent or facility staff member (measure 2.1). Although this percent exceeds the national median of 0.39 percent, it represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (-6.8 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003, 88.4 percent of children exiting foster care in Indiana (measure 3.1) were discharged to a permanent home, which is slightly higher than the national median of 86.3 percent. Also, 79.9 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.2), which is about equal to the national median of 79.5 percent. Furthermore, 71.8 percent of the children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home, which is about equal to the national median of 72.2 percent.

In 2003, 30.7 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4). Although this percent exceeds the national median of 29.6 percent, it represents improved performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (-17.9 percent change). Also in 2003, there were 314 children in Indiana who were 18 years of age or older when they exited foster care, but only 254 children were reported as emancipated from foster care.

There were no substantive differences with regard to exits to permanency as a function of children's race (measure 3.5). (This was assessed only when a particular race or ethnicity accounted for at least 10 percent of the exits from foster care.) White (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care were as likely to be discharged to a permanent home (87.6 percent) as were Black (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care (89.7 percent). However, the percentage of Black (non-Hispanic) children in foster care in 2003 (34.3 percent) was more than three times the percentage of these children in the State's child population (10.1 percent).

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, 76.4 percent of all reunifications occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1), which exceeds the national median of 72.0 percent. Performance with regard to this measure did not change from 2000 to 2003. In addition, 2.5 percent of reunifications occurred after the child had been in foster care for at least 36 months, which is less than the national median of 3.5 percent.

Also in 2003, 9.1 percent of the children entering foster care were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (measure 4.2). Although this is about equal to the national median of 9.5 percent, it represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (-26.6 percent change). In comparison, 9.1 percent of the children entering foster care in 2003 were entering more than 12 months after a prior foster care episode, which represents a decline in performance from 2000 to 2003 (+35.8 percent change). Overall, 18.2 percent of the children entering foster care in 2003 had been in foster care at a prior time.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

Indiana's performance on measure 5.1 is difficult to interpret because in 2003, 889 children were reported to the Federal Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) foster care database as having achieved a finalized adoption, while only 761 children were reported to the AFCARS adoption database as having achieved a finalized adoption. Therefore the actual number of children with a finalized adoption is not clear. The reasons for this discrepancy are not known.

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, 86.9 percent of the children in foster care in Indiana for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings, which is slightly higher than the national median of 84.2 percent (measure 6.1). Also in 2003, 63.1 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months but less than 24 months experienced no more than two placement settings, which is higher than the national median of 59.1 percent.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 7.9 percent of the children entering foster care when they were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1), which is less than the national median of 8.3 percent. There was no substantive change in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003.

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	729,771	710,988	702,882	693,428
Race/Ethnicity (%)¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Asian	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	2.9	3.2	2.9	2.9
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	4.5	4.6	4.4	4.6
White (non-Hispanic)	88.8	88.4	89.2	88.9
Two or more races	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.8
% Child population in poverty	8.7	7.6	10.7	13.4

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	10,822	12,792	12,202	13,303
Children in foster care on 9/30	5,068	5,202	5,238	5,011
Children adopted	729	661	886	1,130

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	31,317	42.9 per 1,000	37,704	53.0 per 1,000	34,793	49.5 per 1,000	36,544	52.7 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	10,822	14.8 per 1,000	12,792	18.0 per 1,000	12,202	17.4 per 1,000	13,303	19.2 per 1,000
Child fatalities	13	1.8 per 100,000	15	2.1 per 100,000	15	2.1 per 100,000	16	2.3 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	8.8	8.6	9.7	10.2
1-5 years	34.7	35.9	36.1	37.2
6-10 years	28.5	28.2	26.7	26.2
11-15 years	21.4	20.9	21.2	20.5
16+ years	5.6	4.9	5.3	4.9
Unknown	1.0	1.5	1.0	1.0
Number	10,822	12,792	12,202	13,303

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.8	1.0	0.7	1.0
Asian	0.6	0.6	0.7	1.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	8.3	8.1	8.4	8.3
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3
Hispanic (of any race)	3.9	5.1	4.5	4.5
White (non-Hispanic)	74.0	72.0	71.7	69.8
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.3	1.0
Unknown	12.5	13.2	13.9	13.9
Number	10,822	12,792	12,202	13,303

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.3
Medical neglect	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.5
Neglect	68.1	71.9	71.8	74.0
Physical abuse	22.4	18.7	17.4	15.5
Sexual abuse	8.7	8.1	7.3	6.7
Unknown/missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	2.8	3.8	7.0	9.4
Number	10,822	12,792	12,202	13,303

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	4,862	5,085	5,062	4,997	5,620	5,829	5,821	5,736	5,414	5,712	5,647	5,723	5,068	5,202	5,238	5,011
Median length of stay (months)	12.5	11.3	11.0	11.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.9	10.7	10.7	10.8	9.9

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	2.4	3.2	3.6	4.2	6.4	6.7	8.0	8.0	2.9	2.9	3.4	3.4	3.2	3.7	4.2	4.2
1 year	3.6	3.9	4.6	4.8	3.9	3.9	4.5	5.2	3.2	3.1	4.1	5.4	3.8	4.6	4.8	5.2
2 years	3.5	3.8	4.4	4.8	3.2	4.0	4.0	4.4	3.3	3.4	4.4	5.1	3.7	4.6	4.7	4.4
3 years	3.7	3.0	4.2	3.8	3.2	3.5	3.4	3.7	3.7	3.1	3.9	4.4	3.0	4.2	3.9	3.7
4 years	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.9	2.4	2.9	3.1	3.8	2.9	2.8	3.5	3.9	3.3	3.5	3.9	3.7
5 years	3.0	2.8	3.5	3.1	2.5	2.7	3.2	3.4	2.7	2.1	3.1	3.5	2.8	3.6	3.2	3.4
6 years	3.1	2.9	2.9	3.3	2.8	2.4	2.4	3.0	2.7	2.6	2.6	3.2	2.9	2.9	3.3	3.1
7 years	3.5	2.9	2.9	2.8	1.9	2.7	2.4	2.7	2.1	2.6	2.5	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.7	3.1
8 years	3.7	3.5	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.8	2.6	2.3	2.5	3.4	2.9	2.9	2.6
9 years	3.7	3.8	4.0	3.6	3.0	3.2	3.0	3.1	3.2	2.8	2.7	2.9	3.6	3.9	3.6	3.5
10 years	4.5	3.9	4.2	3.9	2.9	3.4	3.1	2.7	2.9	3.3	2.7	2.9	3.8	4.1	4.0	3.6
11 years	4.9	4.8	4.4	5.1	3.5	4.3	4.6	3.9	2.7	3.4	3.6	3.5	4.8	4.5	5.1	4.2
12 years	5.7	5.9	5.4	5.3	4.9	4.8	4.9	5.5	3.9	4.4	3.9	4.5	5.7	5.3	5.4	5.3
13 years	6.7	6.9	6.8	6.5	7.7	7.8	7.5	7.5	5.5	6.0	5.8	6.1	7.2	7.0	6.7	6.6
14 years	8.8	8.9	8.6	8.8	11.1	10.4	10.0	9.8	8.5	8.4	7.6	7.3	9.2	8.9	8.9	8.8
15 years	11.5	11.6	10.5	10.8	13.6	12.7	12.1	11.3	12.1	12.4	11.1	10.2	11.7	10.4	10.6	11.4
16 years	12.3	13.2	11.9	10.8	14.9	13.7	13.0	11.6	14.3	13.7	13.2	11.0	13.2	11.6	10.7	12.2
17 years	11.1	10.5	10.6	10.2	9.1	8.2	8.1	7.7	16.4	15.9	15.9	14.0	10.4	10.2	9.7	9.8
18 years	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.2	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	3.8	4.2	3.4	2.9	1.4	1.1	1.2	1.3
19 years	0.1	<.1	0.1	0.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3	<.1
20 years	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Missing data	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	2.1	2.3	2.6	2.6	1.4	2.1	1.5	1.7	1.4	2.0	1.7	2.1	2.1	2.4	2.4	2.1
Asian	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.9	0.7	0.7	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.8
Black (non-Hispanic)	12.3	11.5	12.2	11.9	9.3	10.8	10.4	11.2	10.3	10.5	10.9	10.9	11.1	11.8	11.7	12.3
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	4.0	4.2	4.8	5.0	4.1	4.6	4.6	5.4	4.1	4.1	4.7	5.4	4.0	4.7	4.6	5.0
White (non-Hispanic)	71.3	70.6	70.3	70.1	71.8	71.0	69.9	71.0	72.6	71.4	70.3	70.2	70.5	70.1	69.8	71.0
Two or more races	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.9	1.1	0.2	0.2	1.0	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.9	0.8	0.4	0.2	1.1
Unknown	9.2	9.9	9.0	1.6	11.4	10.7	12.6	3.1	10.1	10.6	11.3	2.5	10.6	9.9	10.5	2.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	<.1	7.4	0.0	0.0	0.2	5.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	7.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	5.4

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	1,016	1,119	1,277	1,137
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	823	950	1,062	956

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	1.8	2.2	2.7	2.7
1 year	6.2	6.4	7.1	7.3
2 years	7.6	7.5	7.9	8.4
3 years	5.2	8.1	6.9	5.7
4 years	6.9	6.2	7.6	6.5
5 years	5.8	6.4	4.7	4.7
6 years	5.5	5.1	6.6	5.8
7 years	5.5	5.0	4.1	5.2
8 years	6.5	4.9	5.2	4.9
9 years	6.5	7.0	4.7	5.5
10 years	7.1	6.2	6.0	4.8
11 years	7.0	5.9	7.1	6.0
12 years	7.2	6.7	5.4	6.2
13 years	5.7	6.3	6.1	5.6
14 years	5.3	4.6	5.5	6.2
15 years	3.8	4.8	4.0	5.2
16 years	3.2	2.6	4.3	4.7
17 years	2.6	3.5	2.9	4.1
18 years	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.4
19 years	<.1	0.0	0.2	<.1
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	3.1	2.8	4.3	3.0
Asian	0.6	0.4	0.8	0.8
Black (non-Hispanic)	17.6	13.9	13.8	13.3
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	4.8	6.3	6.3	6.4
White (non-Hispanic)	63.8	66.1	63.9	67.7
Two or more races	0.6	0.7	0.4	1.0
Unknown	9.4	9.7	10.4	2.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.2	5.6

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	729	661	886	1,130

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	1.8	2.0	1.8	1.9
1 year	8.1	8.5	8.8	12.0
2 years	8.1	9.4	11.4	11.7
3 years	11.2	9.1	11.5	10.9
4 years	9.3	9.5	9.4	9.6
5 years	8.1	7.3	8.0	8.4
6 years	7.3	7.1	6.1	6.5
7 years	6.9	5.3	5.5	5.3
8 years	7.0	6.2	5.8	4.5
9 years	7.4	5.6	5.9	4.9
10 years	5.8	7.4	5.3	5.1
11 years	4.7	4.4	5.2	4.4
12 years	4.7	4.1	5.2	4.2
13 years	3.8	4.4	4.0	3.2
14 years	2.2	4.2	2.8	2.8
15 years	2.2	2.0	1.5	1.9
16 years	0.8	1.7	1.0	1.3
17 years	0.4	1.7	0.9	1.2
18 years	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.2
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	3.2	3.0	2.3	3.5
Asian	0.0	1.1	0.7	0.9
Black (non-Hispanic)	20.4	20.6	19.0	15.0
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	6.0	6.2	6.9	7.4
White (non-Hispanic)	65.6	63.2	65.3	67.9
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9
Unknown	4.8	5.9	5.9	1.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	88.2	88.8	88.6	88.6
Children with one or more recurrences	11.8	11.2	11.4	11.4
Number	5,041	6,184	5,778	5,808

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.79	0.89	0.38	0.54
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.21	99.11	99.62	99.46
Number	9,381	9,638	9,599	9,562

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	13.3	11.6	15.4	18.9
Guardianship	0.0	0.6	0.5	0.7
Reunification	78.4	79.6	76.0	72.6
Other	8.2	8.2	8.1	7.7
Missing data	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Number	5,414	5,712	5,647	5,723

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	43.8	39.5	50.2	36.8
Guardianship	0.0	0.4	0.8	0.1
Reunification	43.9	47.3	36.5	50.3
Other	12.3	12.7	12.4	12.7
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.1	<.1
Number	886	919	896	1,400

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.5	0.9	1.0	1.6
Guardianship	0.0	0.4	0.6	0.4
Reunification	87.0	86.7	85.8	84.5
Other	12.5	12.0	12.6	13.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1
Number	2,995	3,127	2,920	2,641

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	18.1	26.0	20.3	21.0
Children older than 12 at entry	81.9	74.0	79.7	79.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	249	269	286	291

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/American Indian				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	29.9	18.6	18.9	33.1	0.0	11.1	15.8	14.9	24.7	19.5	22.9	24.8
Guardianship	0.0	0.9	1.1	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.2	0.3
Reunification	64.9	70.8	70.5	53.7	95.7	75.9	68.4	76.6	68.3	72.2	69.4	66.0
Other	5.2	9.7	9.5	11.6	4.3	13.0	15.8	8.5	6.8	7.7	7.5	8.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	77	113	95	121	47	54	38	47	558	601	615	621

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	18.9	15.7	21.6	24.2	11.7	9.6	13.9	17.2
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.7	0.5	0.8
Reunification	0.0	0.0	0.0	80.0	74.8	75.0	72.4	71.0	79.8	81.1	77.1	74.4
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.3	9.3	5.6	4.5	8.4	8.6	8.5	7.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Number	0	0	0	10	222	236	268	310	3,928	4,077	3,970	4,020

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	10.2	13.7	13.3	13.8	0.0	26.1	53.3	25.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.2	0.9	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	79.4	80.8	79.3	77.2	100.0	73.9	33.3	72.5	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
Other	10.4	5.4	6.4	7.6	0.0	0.0	13.3	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	549	608	639	145	33	23	15	51	0	0	7	398

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	81.1	81.1	83.2	81.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	11.6	12.1	10.9	12.6
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	3.4	3.2	2.7	3.0
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2
48 or more mos.	1.8	1.8	1.4	1.4
Missing data	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.5
Number	4,247	4,547	4,292	4,157

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	66.4	67.1	63.5	65.2
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	24.9	24.4	25.3	24.5
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	8.2	7.9	9.7	9.4
Missing data	0.5	0.6	1.5	0.8
Number	5,620	5,829	5,821	5,736

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	18.6	18.1	22.0	23.7
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	20.8	27.9	30.4	37.6
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	27.4	26.9	28.7	24.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	19.2	15.0	11.2	8.4
48 or more mos.	13.8	11.8	7.1	5.7
Missing data	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.3
Number	720	662	869	1,084

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	88.6	88.8	89.4	90.2	53.8	54.7	56.7	56.6	32.0	29.6	30.2	28.3	100.0	97.7	98.5	97.8
Children with 3 or more placements	11.4	11.2	10.6	9.8	46.2	45.3	43.3	43.4	68.0	70.4	69.8	71.7	0.0	2.3	1.5	2.2
Number	6,474	6,782	6,736	6,621	1,743	1,935	2,042	2,071	2,218	2,154	2,041	1,996	47	43	65	46

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	16.8	18.0	17.8	16.7
Institutions	4.7	4.6	3.9	4.2
Other settings	78.3	77.3	78.3	79.1
Missing data	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	2,416	2,722	2,826	2,941

Mary Nelson, Administrator
Division of Behavioral, Developmental and Protective Services for
Families, Adults and Children

The following are Iowa's comments on the State data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2003: Report to Congress*.

The Iowa Department of Human Service (DHS) is implementing Better Results for Kids (BR4Kids), a redesign of our child welfare system that emphasizes family engagement, improved assessment, differential response based on risk of future abuse, increasing service flexibility, and establishment of an on-going quality assurance/improvement process. Under the redesign, DHS has developed a model of practice that is built around the CRSR outcomes, as well as core guiding principles of customer service, excellence, accountability and teamwork.

Section C (Children in Foster Care): With regard to the data inconsistencies in this section, in FY05, DHS clarified policy and practice related to trial home visits. This change will result in more consistent case counts in future AFCAR reporting.

DHS places a strong emphasis on timely adoption and is proud of our success in both increasing the number of children adopted from foster care and in achieving timely adoptions. In addition, Iowa's Supreme Court has implemented an expedited termination of parents rights (TPR) appeal process that has helped to speed up adoptions. DHS is also applying for a subsidized guardianship IV-E waiver to further improve permanency. Finally, Iowa is holding a policy forum in the fall of 2005 that will focus on the importance of permanency for older youth in foster care.

Outcome measure 1.1 (Recurrence of Maltreatment): Reducing repeat maltreatment is a core element of Iowa's CFSR PIP and our BR4Kids child welfare redesign. Strategies include strengthening family engagement, more comprehensive family assessments, family team meetings, implementation of Community Care (a project designed to provide community based services for families that do not meet the threshold for public agency involvement), and establishing provider performance measures. Data from our most recent quarter show improvement in reducing repeat maltreatment. We are currently working on developing tools for our staff to help their work with families in which chronic neglect is an issue.

Outcome measure 4.2 (Foster Care Re-entry): CFSR PIP strategies include implementation of more comprehensive assessments and discharge planning, family team meetings, trial home visits, establishing provider performance measures, and data clean-up. Our most recent data on foster care re-entry shows that these strategies are beginning to result in improvement.

Outcome measure 6.1 (Placement Stability): Placement stability for children in care less than 12 months remains fairly stable. While we are committed to improving placement stability for children who remain in care more than 12 months, we note that our performance for children in care less than 12 months is better than the national standard.

Outcome measure 7.1 (Placement Settings of Children Age 12 and Younger): We recognize that we have a higher percentage of children under 12 placed in congregate care, and are submitting a IV-E waiver to enable providers to offer intensive case management and wraparound alternatives to group care.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of Iowa's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, 11.4 percent of the children in Iowa who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percent exceeds the national median of 7.1 percent. There was no change in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003.

In 2003, the rate of child maltreatment victims in Iowa was 19.2 child victims per 1,000 children in the State population, which is higher than the national median of 10.6 child victims per 1,000 children in the population. This rate represents a considerable increase from 2000, when there were 14.8 child victims per 1,000 children in the population 2000.

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

In 2003, 0.54 percent of the children in foster care were found to be maltreated by a foster parent or facility staff member (measure 2.1). Although this percentage exceeds the national median of 0.39 percent, it represents improved performance from 2000 to 2003 (-31.6 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003, 92.2 percent of children exiting foster care in Iowa were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.1), which exceeds the national median of 86.3 percent. Also, 87.2 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.2), which exceeds the national median of 79.5 percent. Furthermore, 86.5 percent of the children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home, which far exceeds the national median of 72.2 percent.

In 2003, 21.0 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4). Although this percent is less than the national median of 29.6 percent, performance on this measure declined from 2000 to 2003 (+72.2 percent change).

Many of the children who are reported as exits to emancipation appear to be discharged from foster care prior to their 18th birthday. In 2003, for example, 177 of the children exiting foster care were age 18 or older at the time of exit. However, 291 children were reported as exiting to emancipation.

There were no real differences with regard to exits to permanency as a function of children's race or ethnicity (measure 3.5). (This was assessed only when a particular race or ethnicity accounted for at least 10 percent of the exits from foster care.) White (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care were as likely to be discharged to a permanent home (92.4 percent) as were Black (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care (91.1 percent). However, the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the foster care population (12.3 percent) far exceeded the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the State's child population (2.9 percent).

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, 81.3 percent of all reunifications occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1), which exceeds the national median of 72.0 percent. Performance with regard to this measure did not change from 2000 to 2003. In addition, 2.6 percent of reunifications occurred after the child had been in foster care for at least 36 months, which is less than the national median of 3.5 percent.

Although Iowa's percent of reunifications in 2003 that occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was quite high, the percent of re-entries into foster care also was quite high. In 2003, 24.5 percent of the children entering foster care were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (measure 4.2), which exceeds the national median of 9.5 percent. There was no change in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003. In addition, 9.4 percent of the children entering foster care were entering more than 12 months after a prior foster care episode. Consequently, 33.9 percent of all children entering foster care in 2003 had been in foster care at a prior time.

One explanation for this high rate of foster care re-entry may be the high percentage (19 percent) of children entering foster care in Iowa who are age 16 and older. A substantial positive correlation was found for 2003 between State re-entry percentages and the percent of children entering foster care who were age 16 and older. Therefore, it may be the older children entering foster care (usually because of behavior problems rather than due to maltreatment) that account for the high re-entry percentages.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2003, 61.3 percent of all finalized adoptions in Iowa occurred within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 5.1). This percent not only is considerably higher than the national median of 23.9 percent, but also represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (+55.6 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, 90.2 percent of the children in foster care for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings (measure 6.1), which exceeds the national median of 84.2 percent. However, 56.6 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months, experienced no more than two placement settings, which is less than the national median of 59.1 percent.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 20.9 percent of the children entering foster care in Iowa who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 8.3 percent. There was no change in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003.

Kansas [CONTEXT DATA]

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	711,139	702,093	699,180	695,081
Race/Ethnicity (%)¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9
Asian	1.7	1.9	1.8	1.8
Black (non-Hispanic)	6.9	7.2	6.7	6.7
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	10.4	10.7	10.4	10.7
White (non-Hispanic)	77.0	76.6	77.6	77.1
Two or more races	2.9	2.7	2.6	2.7
% Child population in poverty	13.0	14.4	12.0	14.5

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	8,356	7,308	6,425	5,682
Children in foster care on 9/30	6,569	6,409	6,190	5,781
Children adopted	468	428	475	546

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	30,627	43.1 per 1,000	7,814	11.1 per 1,000	26,696	38.2 per 1,000	24,250	34.9 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	8,356	11.8 per 1,000	7,308	10.4 per 1,000	6,425	9.2 per 1,000	5,682	8.2 per 1,000
Child fatalities	7	1.0 per 100,000	7	1.0 per 100,000	1	0.1 per 100,000	5	0.7 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	7.5	7.1	7.3	6.8
1-5 years	31.4	32.9	33.7	34.7
6-10 years	30.4	30.0	29.4	28.9
11-15 years	25.0	24.4	24.0	24.1
16+ years	5.6	5.1	5.2	5.1
Unknown	0.0	0.5	0.4	0.3
Number	8,356	7,308	6,425	5,682

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.4
Asian	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	14.7	13.5	14.2	14.9
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	2.7	2.1	1.9	1.8
White (non-Hispanic)	74.3	75.2	74.5	73.7
Two or more races	1.3	1.7	1.8	2.1
Unknown	5.3	6.1	6.4	5.9
Number	8,356	7,308	6,425	5,682

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	88.1	17.0	17.0	18.2
Medical neglect	26.2	2.5	2.2	2.5
Neglect	77.0	27.6	27.4	26.5
Physical abuse	54.3	27.4	25.8	25.7
Sexual abuse	27.4	13.8	14.3	15.2
Unknown/missing data	4.2	0.6	0.8	0.8
Other	82.5	23.0	23.1	22.2
Number	8,356	7,308	6,425	5,682

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	5,166	5,375	5,132	5,389	3,191	2,834	2,766	2,677	1,788	1,801	1,710	2,285	6,569	6,409	6,190	5,781
Median length of stay (months)	12.3	13.3	15.1	16.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	13.2	15.5	16.3	18.7	14.8	16.9	16.6	16.1

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	3.9	3.1	3.2	3.3	10.0	11.0	10.0	10.9	2.3	1.9	1.4	1.7	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.1
1 year	5.1	4.9	4.7	5.2	4.9	5.0	5.9	6.0	4.0	3.2	3.4	4.2	4.8	4.7	4.8	5.1
2 years	4.4	5.1	5.3	5.0	4.2	5.4	4.4	4.7	4.3	3.7	4.0	6.0	5.2	5.6	4.9	5.2
3 years	4.2	4.2	4.9	5.3	4.4	4.1	4.3	5.0	3.5	3.3	4.2	5.4	4.5	5.2	5.4	4.7
4 years	4.3	4.3	4.1	5.2	4.0	3.7	4.1	3.7	3.1	3.3	3.4	5.6	4.5	4.3	5.0	4.6
5 years	3.3	4.1	4.1	4.1	3.9	3.7	3.3	3.7	3.4	3.5	3.8	5.0	4.5	4.2	4.0	4.7
6 years	4.1	3.5	3.8	4.0	3.3	3.7	3.6	3.0	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.4	4.1	3.8	3.8
7 years	4.8	4.2	3.7	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.1	3.4	3.1	3.4	3.5	3.6	4.2	3.7	3.8	3.8
8 years	3.7	4.7	4.3	3.7	4.4	4.4	3.5	4.0	3.1	3.4	3.3	3.4	4.7	4.3	3.6	4.1
9 years	4.5	4.7	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.1	3.6	2.9	4.0	3.6	2.7	3.2	4.4	5.1	4.3	3.8
10 years	4.2	4.7	4.6	5.1	3.8	4.3	4.1	3.5	3.3	4.2	3.5	3.4	4.5	4.5	4.9	4.5
11 years	5.1	4.5	4.2	4.9	5.3	3.7	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.6	3.1	4.1	4.5	4.4	4.7	5.0
12 years	4.5	5.7	4.7	4.9	5.2	5.5	5.4	4.7	4.6	4.4	3.5	4.3	5.3	4.6	4.8	5.1
13 years	6.5	5.5	6.7	5.3	6.5	6.4	6.1	6.8	4.2	4.1	4.7	3.7	5.3	6.2	5.2	5.7
14 years	7.4	7.7	7.0	7.4	8.5	8.8	9.0	9.0	6.9	5.8	6.3	5.8	7.1	6.6	7.4	6.8
15 years	8.9	8.7	9.3	8.1	9.5	9.4	11.0	10.2	8.9	8.8	7.2	6.9	8.2	8.6	8.3	8.6
16 years	11.1	9.5	9.7	9.8	8.7	8.3	9.5	9.2	11.7	9.9	10.4	8.1	9.2	8.6	10.2	9.2
17 years	7.4	8.5	8.0	7.8	4.3	4.3	5.0	4.9	11.0	11.5	14.2	11.1	9.0	8.1	8.6	9.3
18 years	1.7	1.7	2.0	1.4	<.1	0.1	0.1	<.1	10.1	13.4	12.3	9.9	2.6	3.0	2.4	2.1
19 years	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	1.3	1.8	1.1	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5
20 years	0.2	<.1	<.1	0.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
Missing data	0.2	0.1	<.1	<.1	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	1.5	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.7	1.0	0.7	1.6	2.1	0.7	1.1	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.7	1.0
Asian	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	22.3	22.7	21.6	20.5	18.1	15.9	14.4	16.3	16.8	16.8	14.1	13.6	21.8	21.4	20.4	21.3
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	6.2	5.5	5.3	5.1	3.8	3.8	4.7	4.2	5.0	3.8	4.2	4.5	5.4	5.2	5.4	4.9
White (non-Hispanic)	67.1	67.3	68.0	68.0	72.6	72.7	72.2	68.5	72.8	73.8	75.4	74.9	68.2	67.8	67.8	65.5
Two or more races	0.6	1.0	1.6	2.3	1.0	1.8	2.0	2.9	0.6	0.9	1.4	2.6	0.8	1.4	1.8	2.4
Unknown	1.9	2.4	2.5	3.2	3.3	4.4	5.6	5.9	2.2	3.4	3.3	3.3	2.5	3.0	3.6	4.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	1,908	2,056	2,076	1,988
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	1,170	1,338	1,383	1,427

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.5
1 year	4.9	4.5	5.0	5.3
2 years	6.2	6.9	6.4	5.5
3 years	5.6	6.4	6.8	5.2
4 years	5.0	5.4	6.3	6.0
5 years	5.6	5.0	5.9	5.7
6 years	3.7	5.2	5.1	4.9
7 years	5.4	4.0	4.9	5.4
8 years	6.9	5.5	4.5	5.3
9 years	5.2	7.0	5.6	5.0
10 years	6.0	5.5	6.5	6.9
11 years	5.4	5.8	6.4	7.5
12 years	6.7	5.6	5.7	7.1
13 years	5.1	7.3	5.5	6.1
14 years	7.9	5.8	7.7	5.5
15 years	6.7	7.4	5.7	7.0
16 years	5.1	5.2	5.9	4.3
17 years	4.9	3.6	3.3	4.2
18 years	1.5	1.5	1.0	1.1
19 years	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.4
20+ years	<.1	0.1	<.1	<.1
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.2	1.1	0.7	0.5
Asian	<.1	0.3	0.3	0.4
Black (non-Hispanic)	29.0	29.7	29.0	29.9
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	6.6	6.7	5.3	4.6
White (non-Hispanic)	60.1	59.1	60.2	59.5
Two or more races	1.1	1.0	2.1	2.3
Unknown	1.9	2.1	2.4	2.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	468	428	475	546

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	0.2	0.0	0.6	0.4
1 year	7.5	5.6	6.9	7.0
2 years	10.3	8.9	10.1	11.9
3 years	8.5	9.3	13.5	11.7
4 years	5.6	9.1	7.2	12.1
5 years	7.9	8.9	7.2	9.9
6 years	7.7	8.2	6.9	5.5
7 years	5.6	7.0	7.2	5.1
8 years	8.5	8.2	4.6	4.8
9 years	5.1	5.8	6.1	3.8
10 years	5.8	4.9	6.3	4.0
11 years	4.9	5.1	4.6	5.1
12 years	3.6	3.5	6.3	5.5
13 years	4.9	4.2	3.4	2.9
14 years	3.4	3.0	2.5	5.1
15 years	4.1	2.8	1.5	2.2
16 years	3.8	2.1	2.7	1.6
17 years	2.1	2.1	2.1	1.1
18 years	0.4	0.7	0.0	0.2
19 years	0.0	0.5	0.2	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.5	0.7	1.5	0.2
Asian	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.4
Black (non-Hispanic)	27.8	20.1	25.7	21.1
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	5.3	2.8	7.8	3.8
White (non-Hispanic)	59.4	71.5	62.7	68.3
Two or more races	1.9	1.4	1.1	2.0
Unknown	3.2	3.5	1.3	4.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Kansas [OUTCOMES DATA]

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	92.2	91.7	91.8	92.9
Children with one or more recurrences	7.8	8.3	8.2	7.1
Number	4,080	3,533	3,137	2,555

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.49	0.50	0.61	0.45
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.51	99.50	99.39	99.55
Number	7,961	7,796	7,481	7,481

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	1.7	1.3	1.8	19.2
Guardianship	5.6	6.8	9.1	9.1
Reunification	79.6	78.3	72.9	56.8
Other	13.0	13.6	15.6	14.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.9
Number	1,788	1,801	1,710	2,285

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	22.2	7.1	20.0	90.8
Guardianship	5.6	7.1	4.0	0.4
Reunification	66.7	64.3	44.0	5.4
Other	5.6	21.4	24.0	2.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	8.0	1.2
Number	18	14	25	260

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.2	0.2	0.1	1.0
Guardianship	4.6	5.1	6.9	6.4
Reunification	73.5	69.9	64.8	59.6
Other	21.7	24.8	27.2	30.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	1.0	2.4
Number	808	830	815	859

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	19.5	12.5	16.9	16.7
Children older than 12 at entry	80.5	87.5	83.1	83.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	149	160	195	233

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/American Indian				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.3	0.7	1.2	24.8
Guardianship	0.0	33.3	0.0	15.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.3	6.3	12.0	10.3
Reunification	64.9	58.3	66.7	31.6	81.8	63.6	87.5	60.0	79.7	77.8	70.5	48.2
Other	35.1	8.3	33.3	47.4	18.2	36.4	12.5	20.0	12.7	15.2	16.2	15.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3
Number	37	12	18	19	11	11	8	5	300	302	241	311

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.2	1.4	1.4	16.5	1.5	1.4	2.1	18.5
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.4	5.8	4.2	5.8	6.3	6.5	9.3	9.1
Reunification	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	86.5	65.2	76.4	60.2	79.3	79.5	73.0	57.9
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.9	27.5	18.1	15.5	12.8	12.5	14.8	13.7
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.8
Number	0	0	0	0	89	69	72	103	1,301	1,329	1,290	1,711

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	19.7	9.1	6.3	0.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	0.0	12.9	0.0	7.9	0.0	0.0	16.7	6.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	89.7	75.8	75.4	59.2	72.7	81.3	75.0	66.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	10.3	11.3	24.6	13.2	18.2	12.5	8.3	6.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	39	62	57	76	11	16	24	60	0	0	0	0

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	47.8	43.2	42.3	43.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	33.0	35.0	33.7	36.2
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	11.9	13.8	15.5	12.1
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	3.7	4.2	4.7	4.9
48 or more mos.	3.2	3.7	3.4	2.6
Missing data	0.4	<.1	0.4	0.2
Number	1,424	1,411	1,247	1,297

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	89.6	89.9	87.9	88.2
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	4.3	3.1	3.8	3.4
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	1.1	2.8	4.4	5.5
Missing data	5.1	4.2	4.0	2.9
Number	3,191	2,834	2,766	2,677

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	16.7	4.3	22.6	0.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	20.0	34.8	29.0	14.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	36.7	34.8	6.5	32.9
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	6.7	0.0	22.6	30.4
48 or more mos.	20.0	26.1	19.4	21.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	30	23	31	438

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	67.0	67.0	69.0	69.4	42.5	42.2	42.0	47.5	22.8	21.4	21.9	22.1	66.7	75.0	63.6	69.6
Children with 3 or more placements	27.8	28.3	28.9	29.3	55.2	55.6	56.7	50.9	75.2	76.9	76.1	75.1	16.7	0.0	36.4	30.4
Number	3,591	3,192	3,079	3,010	2,339	2,319	2,099	2,047	2,421	2,695	2,709	2,986	6	4	11	23

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.4
Institutions	2.9	1.3	1.1	1.2
Other settings	94.2	96.1	97.0	97.3
Missing data	1.2	1.0	0.3	0.1
Number	1,701	1,585	1,483	1,457

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The following are Kansas comments on the State's data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2003: Report to Congress*.

Section B (Maltreatment Information Overview): With regard to 2001 child maltreatment data, Kansas did not report all children who were the subject of an investigation. In 2001, Kansas only reported those children who were substantiated as victims in that reporting period, thus the reason for such a low number of children compared to other years in the report. The oversight in reporting population was corrected for 2002 and 2003. Readers may notice a decline in the number and rate of victims between 2001 and 2003. The number of reports assigned to investigate maltreatment in Kansas decreased approximately 16 percent between 2000 and 2003, thus the decline in number of victims.

Section C (Children in Foster Care): In recent months, Kansas has worked with Region VII and the National Resource Center to address the issue of cases dropping between reporting periods. Issues with data entry accuracy and system programming for transfers of custody between the state child welfare and juvenile justice agency have resulted in case closures that are not included in AFCARS discharge information. Absence of accurate discharge information results in underreporting of children who exit foster care.

Section E (Children Adopted): Readers may notice in Section E that Kansas had 544 adoptions finalized. However, data for outcome measure 5.1 reflect that only 438 children exited care due to adoption. The discrepancy between these two figures is related to the above issue; cases not accurately reported as discharged (for reason of adoption). In addition, because reporting of discharges to adoption achieved acceptable accuracy in Kansas in 2003, data displayed for years 2000 to 2002 in 3.2 Exits of Children with Disabilities; and 5.2 Time to Adoption is not an accurate reflection of Kansas activity for those periods of time.

With regard to outcomes performance, a priority for Kansas is that all children in out of home placement reside in a family like setting, and our work in communities to achieve this goal is reflected in outcome measure 7.1. Kansas performance with timely permanency and stable placements continues to be a focus for this state. Work to improve performance to meet national data standards and outcomes is ongoing.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of Kansas performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, 7.1 percent of the children in Kansas who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percent is equal to the 2003 national median and represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (-9.0 percent change).

The decrease from 2000 to 2003 in the percentage of children experiencing maltreatment recurrence corresponded to a decrease in the rate of child maltreatment victims from 2000 (11.8 child victims per 1,000 children in the population) to 2003 (8.2 child victims per 1,000 children in the population). In 2003, the national median was 10.6 child victims per 1,000 children in the population.

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

In 2003, 0.45 percent of the children in foster care in Kansas were found to be maltreated by a foster parent or facility staff member (measure 2.1). Although this percent exceeds the national median of 0.39 percent, it represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (-8.2 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003, 85.1 percent of children exiting foster care in Kansas (measure 3.1) were discharged to a permanent home, which is slightly less than the national median of 86.3 percent. Also, 67 percent of the children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.3), which is less than the national median of 72.2 percent. In contrast, 96.6 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.2), which is considerably higher than the national median of 79.5 percent.

In 2003, 16.7 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4). This percent not only is less than the national median of 29.6 percent, but also represents a performance improvement from 2000 to 2003 (-14.4 percent change).

There were no real differences with regard to exits to permanency as a function of children's race or ethnicity (measure 3.5). (This was assessed only when a particular race or ethnicity accounted for at least 10 percent of the exits from foster care.) White (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care were as likely to be discharged to a permanent home (85.5 percent) as were Black (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care (83.3 percent). However, the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the foster care population (21.3 percent) was more than three times the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the State's child population (6.7 percent).

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, only 43.9 percent of all reunifications occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1). This percent is not only less than the national median of 72.0 percent, but also represents a decline in performance on the measure from 2000 to 2003 (-8.2 percent change). In addition, 7.5 percent of reunifications occurred after the child had been in foster care for at least 36 months, which is more than the national median of 3.5 percent.

Although Kansas had a relatively low percent of reunifications occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care, the State also had a low percentage of re-entries occurring within 12 months of a prior episode (measure 4.2). In 2003, 3.4 percent of the children entering foster care in Kansas were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode. This percent not only is less than the national median of 9.5, but also represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (-20.9 percent). However, there also was a substantial increase from 2000 to 2003 in the percent of children entering foster care who were re-entering more than 12 months after a prior episode (+400 percent change). Overall, 33.9 percent of all children entering foster care in 2003 had been in foster care at a prior time.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2003, 15.3 percent of all finalized adoptions in Kansas occurred within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 5.1), which is less than the national median of 23.9 percent. Kansas performance cannot be compared over time because in 2000, 2001, and 2002, there was a discrepancy between the number of adoptions reported to the Federal Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) foster care file and the number reported to the AFCARS adoption file.

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, 69.4 percent of the children in foster care in Kansas for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings (measure 6.1). This percent is less than the national median of 84.2 percent and is among the lowest in the nation. Also in 2003, 47.5 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months, experienced no more than two placement settings, which is less than the national median of 59.1 percent.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 2.6 percent of the children entering foster care in Kansas who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percent not only is less than the national median of 8.3 percent, but also represents improved performance from 2000 to 2003 (-42.0 percent change).

Kentucky [CONTEXT DATA]

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	993,728	988,238	991,366	994,182
Race/Ethnicity (%)¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8
Black (non-Hispanic)	8.9	9.2	8.9	8.9
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.1
White (non-Hispanic)	86.3	86.2	86.5	86.2
Two or more races	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8
% Child population in poverty	15.2	17.2	21.4	18.1

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	18,600	16,544	16,945	18,178
Children in foster care on 9/30	6,017	6,165	6,814	6,895
Children adopted	398	548	559	612

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	63,967	64.4 per 1,000	56,478	57.2 per 1,000	62,738	63.3 per 1,000	69,201	69.6 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	18,600	18.7 per 1,000	16,544	16.7 per 1,000	16,945	17.1 per 1,000	18,178	18.3 per 1,000
Child fatalities	21	2.1 per 100,000	37	3.7 per 100,000	23	2.3 per 100,000	6	0.6 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	7.9	8.2	9.2	9.7
1-5 years	32.3	32.4	34.5	34.4
6-10 years	30.7	30.3	28.3	27.7
11-15 years	23.9	23.8	22.6	22.9
16+ years	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.3
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	18,600	16,544	16,945	18,178

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Asian	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	13.0	13.1	11.9	12.9
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3
White (non-Hispanic)	76.6	75.2	74.7	73.4
Two or more races	1.5	1.8	1.7	2.3
Unknown	8.4	9.6	11.4	10.7
Number	18,600	16,544	16,945	18,178

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	2.5	2.1	1.5	1.1
Medical neglect	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Neglect	67.5	71.4	75.9	79.2
Physical abuse	27.2	23.9	19.6	17.5
Sexual abuse	7.8	7.0	6.6	5.9
Unknown/missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	18,600	16,544	16,945	18,178

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	5,253	5,804	5,970	6,394	4,128	4,590	5,250	5,485	3,364	4,230	4,406	4,984	6,017	6,165	6,814	6,895
Median length of stay (months)	16.9	18.3	16.9	14.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.4	5.3	6.3	6.9	16.6	16.5	13.7	13.0

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	3.9	3.5	4.0	3.9	10.7	11.6	10.9	12.6	5.3	5.5	5.2	5.4	3.6	4.1	3.9	4.7
1 year	4.7	4.4	4.3	5.2	5.6	5.7	6.4	6.0	5.6	5.6	5.5	6.3	4.8	4.3	5.2	5.3
2 years	4.5	4.5	4.9	4.8	5.1	5.7	5.6	5.9	5.5	5.2	5.9	6.6	4.6	4.8	4.8	4.7
3 years	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.6	5.2	5.1	4.9	5.0	5.3	5.2	5.7	6.0	4.6	4.4	4.4	4.1
4 years	4.5	4.0	4.0	4.5	4.6	4.0	4.7	4.7	5.0	4.7	5.0	5.3	4.0	4.0	4.5	4.0
5 years	4.0	4.1	3.8	4.1	4.3	4.3	4.8	4.2	4.5	5.3	4.7	4.9	4.2	3.7	3.9	4.0
6 years	5.0	4.2	3.6	3.6	4.3	4.2	3.3	4.0	4.8	4.5	4.1	4.4	4.2	3.7	3.5	4.0
7 years	4.8	4.3	4.1	3.5	4.3	4.2	4.5	4.1	4.6	4.2	4.6	3.8	4.3	4.0	3.4	3.7
8 years	4.7	4.4	4.4	4.1	3.8	4.2	3.5	3.7	4.5	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.5	4.3	3.9	3.6
9 years	5.1	4.6	4.2	4.1	4.2	4.0	3.7	3.8	4.5	4.6	3.9	3.5	4.6	4.2	4.0	3.8
10 years	4.4	4.9	4.5	4.2	4.3	4.3	3.8	3.3	3.8	4.3	3.7	3.5	5.0	4.4	4.1	4.1
11 years	4.9	4.7	5.1	4.6	4.4	4.2	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.8	4.0	3.5	4.7	5.1	4.4	3.9
12 years	5.0	5.2	5.0	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.1	4.1	3.9	4.1	4.4	4.0	5.5	4.9	5.0	4.9
13 years	5.6	5.9	6.0	5.6	6.0	5.6	5.4	5.6	3.7	4.2	4.2	3.9	6.0	6.1	5.7	5.9
14 years	7.3	6.9	7.0	7.0	7.7	6.8	7.6	7.2	5.4	5.5	5.2	4.8	6.9	7.1	7.1	7.0
15 years	8.1	8.4	7.9	8.2	8.2	7.5	8.0	8.3	7.0	5.8	6.3	6.0	8.3	7.9	8.4	8.6
16 years	8.2	8.9	9.1	8.9	7.1	7.7	8.2	7.7	7.4	7.0	6.7	6.5	8.5	9.2	9.3	9.7
17 years	7.3	8.3	8.3	8.9	4.7	5.2	5.7	5.7	8.2	7.0	8.8	10.8	7.5	8.5	9.3	9.2
18 years	2.1	2.7	2.8	2.5	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	5.6	7.8	5.6	4.0	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.7
19 years	0.9	1.1	1.7	1.4	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.6	0.8	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.6	1.5	1.2
20 years	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.5	0.6	1.1	1.2	0.6	0.8	1.0	0.8
Missing data	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.1

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	<.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	<.1	<.1	0.2	0.3	<.1	0.0	0.2	<.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
Asian	0.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.2	<.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	<.1	<.1	0.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	23.9	21.5	19.7	18.1	14.7	15.4	14.3	13.9	18.2	17.3	15.5	14.3	20.8	19.8	18.2	17.5
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7
White (non-Hispanic)	69.0	71.5	73.0	74.2	76.4	76.8	74.0	75.7	72.8	75.2	74.8	75.4	72.0	72.9	72.6	74.6
Two or more races	2.8	3.9	3.6	3.4	2.7	2.6	2.1	3.5	1.5	3.0	2.4	2.9	3.5	3.5	3.2	3.8
Unknown	3.4	2.1	2.7	3.2	5.0	4.6	8.7	5.9	6.6	3.9	6.4	6.3	2.7	2.8	4.9	3.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	2,013	1,928	1,932	2,039
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	84	66	33	14

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	1.7	1.7	1.7	2.2
1 year	4.5	3.8	4.0	4.3
2 years	5.7	6.0	4.8	5.8
3 years	5.5	5.3	5.7	5.1
4 years	6.3	5.1	5.5	5.0
5 years	5.8	5.2	4.7	5.5
6 years	6.0	5.9	4.5	5.3
7 years	6.7	5.7	5.0	4.7
8 years	6.9	6.2	5.7	4.9
9 years	7.0	6.4	6.7	6.0
10 years	8.1	7.2	6.9	6.0
11 years	6.7	7.6	7.8	6.7
12 years	7.5	7.1	7.8	7.1
13 years	7.3	7.7	6.9	7.7
14 years	5.8	7.3	7.4	7.8
15 years	4.2	6.2	8.0	7.6
16 years	3.1	4.0	4.4	5.7
17 years	1.1	1.6	2.1	2.3
18 years	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2
19 years	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1
20+ years	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	<.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
Asian	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	24.5	22.0	18.8	17.4
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	0.9	1.1	0.8	1.1
White (non-Hispanic)	68.1	71.0	73.3	74.4
Two or more races	4.1	4.0	4.5	5.0
Unknown	2.4	1.9	2.4	1.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	398	548	559	612

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	1.5	0.7	0.9	2.8
1 year	6.3	4.7	5.7	6.2
2 years	10.8	7.8	8.6	7.0
3 years	11.1	8.0	8.6	8.3
4 years	9.3	8.9	6.3	8.2
5 years	7.8	9.7	7.7	8.8
6 years	9.5	7.5	8.1	5.1
7 years	6.8	7.5	7.3	5.7
8 years	7.3	9.5	7.0	5.6
9 years	6.8	6.4	7.2	6.0
10 years	2.5	5.7	5.4	5.4
11 years	5.3	5.7	5.9	6.0
12 years	5.3	4.0	4.8	6.9
13 years	2.5	4.4	6.3	5.1
14 years	1.5	4.4	4.7	4.2
15 years	2.3	1.6	2.7	3.4
16 years	1.3	2.4	1.4	2.6
17 years	2.0	1.1	1.6	2.3
18 years	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	36.4	35.2	29.5	26.1
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	1.8	3.3	3.2	2.8
White (non-Hispanic)	58.0	60.8	65.3	70.6
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Unknown	3.0	0.0	0.5	0.2
Missing data	0.0	0.7	1.4	0.2

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Kentucky [OUTCOMES DATA]

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	91.4	91.4	91.7	91.6
Children with one or more recurrences	8.6	8.6	8.3	8.4
Number	7,994	8,345	6,628	6,738

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.47	0.61	0.37	0.40
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.53	99.39	99.63	99.60
Number	8,575	9,444	10,254	10,787

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	12.3	12.4	12.6	12.6
Guardianship	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.7
Reunification	74.0	71.4	69.3	68.5
Other	8.5	8.7	9.2	9.5
Missing data	4.6	6.9	8.4	8.7
Number	3,364	4,230	4,406	4,984

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	25.6	23.8	13.1	30.9
Guardianship	0.0	3.8	6.0	6.5
Reunification	43.6	47.5	59.5	38.1
Other	28.2	17.5	14.3	19.4
Missing data	2.6	7.5	7.1	5.0
Number	39	80	84	139

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	1.0	0.6	0.5	1.2
Guardianship	0.9	0.7	0.8	1.3
Reunification	72.0	69.6	69.4	67.9
Other	20.2	21.9	22.4	23.5
Missing data	5.8	7.2	7.0	6.1
Number	1,168	1,413	1,454	1,597

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	13.8	12.2	18.7	18.9
Children older than 12 at entry	86.2	87.1	81.3	81.1
Missing data	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0
Number	232	303	353	413

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/American Indian				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	10.0	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.3	19.5	19.9	18.1
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.5	1.0	0.8
Reunification	90.0	66.7	0.0	87.5	87.5	75.0	100.0	66.7	62.8	60.1	57.5	55.9
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.5	25.0	0.0	0.0	8.0	9.9	12.6	12.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	6.7	10.0	9.1	13.0
Number	10	3	0	8	8	4	2	6	611	730	684	714

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	10.0	37.1	17.9	9.8	10.7	11.1	12.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.6
Reunification	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	83.3	75.0	60.0	51.3	76.6	73.3	71.0	70.1
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	2.9	7.7	8.7	9.0	9.0	9.6
Missing data	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	23.1	4.2	6.4	8.5	7.7
Number	1	0	0	0	12	20	35	39	2,448	3,181	3,294	3,757

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	8.1	7.9	4.6	2.5	33.3	19.5	28.0	22.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	0.0	1.8	0.7	0.9	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	79.4	83.5	82.7	83.2	58.8	70.3	60.7	61.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	9.4	4.9	3.9	4.1	3.9	0.8	7.5	8.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	3.1	1.8	8.1	9.2	3.9	8.6	3.7	7.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	223	164	284	316	51	128	107	144	0	0	0	0

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	79.3	80.6	79.9	79.6
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	13.3	12.2	13.2	13.7
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	3.9	4.3	3.4	3.7
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.6	1.5	1.9	1.6
48 or more mos.	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.3
Missing data	0.8	0.3	0.5	0.1
Number	2,491	3,019	3,054	3,415

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	87.5	80.8	80.8	81.4
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	8.9	11.9	10.9	10.6
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	3.6	6.9	7.8	7.7
Missing data	<.1	0.4	0.5	0.3
Number	4,128	4,590	5,250	5,485

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	5.6	1.9	3.9	5.0
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	18.1	14.3	11.0	16.0
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	27.5	26.3	23.3	22.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	22.5	23.5	26.8	19.5
48 or more mos.	26.3	34.0	35.0	37.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	414	524	557	626

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	75.5	76.7	79.0	83.5	49.7	45.2	53.8	59.0	43.6	35.9	33.2	33.1	91.3	100.0	89.2	90.5
Children with 3 or more placements	24.5	23.3	21.0	16.5	50.3	54.8	46.2	41.0	56.4	64.1	66.8	66.9	8.7	0.0	10.8	9.5
Number	4,667	5,265	5,924	6,421	1,681	1,742	1,917	2,199	3,010	3,372	3,342	3,238	23	15	37	21

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Institutions	15.3	10.7	10.6	10.6
Other settings	84.7	89.2	89.3	89.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	2,681	2,989	3,308	3,500

Kentucky [STATE COMMENT]

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of Kentucky's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, 8.4 percent of the children in Kentucky who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percent exceeds the national median of 7.1 percent. There was no change in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003.

In 2003, the rate of child maltreatment victims was 18.3 child victims per 1,000 children in the State population, which exceeds the national median of 10.6 child victims per 1,000 children in the population. There was little change from 2000 to 2003 in the child victim rate.

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

In 2003, 0.40 percent of the children in foster care were found to be maltreated by a foster parent or facility staff member (measure 2.1). This percent is about equal to the national median of 0.39 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (-14.9 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003, 81.8 percent of all children exiting foster care in Kentucky were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.1), which is less than the national median of 86.3 percent. Also, 75.5 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.2), which is less than the national median of 79.5 percent. Furthermore, 70.4 percent of the children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.3), which is less than the national median of 72.2 percent.

In 2003, 18.9 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4). Although this percent is less than the national median of 29.6 percent, it represents a decline in performance from 2000 to 2003 (+37.0 percent change).

Many of the children who are reported as exits to emancipation appear to be discharged from foster care prior to their 18th birthday. In 2003, for example, 314 of the children exiting foster care were age 18 or older at the time of exit. However, 413 children were reported as exiting to emancipation.

Although there appear to be some differences with regard to exits to permanency as a function of children's race (measure 3.5), it is difficult to interpret these differences because of missing data pertaining to discharge reasons for Black (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care (13 percent missing data) and White (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care (7.7 percent missing data).

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, 79.6 percent of all reunifications occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1), which exceeds the national median of 72.0 percent. Performance with regard to this measure did not change from 2000 to 2003. In addition, 2.9 percent of reunifications occurred after the child had been in foster care for at least 36 months, which is less than the national median of 3.5 percent.

However, Kentucky's relatively high percentage of reunifications within 12 months corresponds to a relatively high incidence of re-entry into foster care within 12 months. In 2003, 10.6 percent of the children entering foster care in Kentucky were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (measure 4.2). This percent not only exceeds the national median of 9.5 percent, but also represents a decline in performance from 2000 to 2003 (+19.1 percent change). Also in 2003, 7.7 percent of the children entering foster care in 2003 were re-entering more than 12 months after a prior foster care episode. Overall, 18.3 percent of children entering foster care in 2003 had been in foster care at a prior time.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2003, 21.0 percent of all finalized adoptions in Kentucky occurred within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 5.1). This percent not only is less than the national median of 23.9 percent, but also represents a decline in performance from 2000 to 2003 (-11.4 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, 83.5 percent of the children in foster care in Kentucky for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings (measure 6.1), which is close to the national median of 84.2 percent. In addition, in 2003, 59.0 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months, experienced no more than two placement settings, which is about equal to the national median of 59.1 percent.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 10.6 percent of the children entering foster care who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). Although this percent exceeds the national median of 8.3 percent, it represents a performance improvement from 2000 to 2003 (-30.7 percent change).

Louisiana [CONTEXT DATA]

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	1,215,916	1,197,818	1,187,185	1,177,555
Race/Ethnicity (%) ¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Asian	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	39.7	39.7	39.3	39.4
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.6
White (non-Hispanic)	54.6	54.6	55.2	55.0
Two or more races	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.1
% Child population in poverty	23.4	23.1	26.4	25.5

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	10,618	11,158	10,971	11,432
Children in foster care on 9/30	5,406	5,024	4,829	4,541
Children adopted	476	470	487	497

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	36,355	29.9 per 1,000	38,085	31.8 per 1,000	37,825	31.9 per 1,000	41,726	35.4 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	10,618	8.7 per 1,000	11,158	9.3 per 1,000	10,971	9.2 per 1,000	11,432	9.7 per 1,000
Child fatalities	30	2.5 per 100,000	33	2.8 per 100,000	37	3.1 per 100,000	43	3.7 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	8.2	8.5	8.9	8.5
1-5 years	30.4	30.8	31.5	32.8
6-10 years	31.7	30.4	29.4	28.8
11-15 years	25.0	25.3	25.1	25.0
16+ years	4.7	4.9	5.1	5.0
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	10,618	11,158	10,971	11,432

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2
Asian	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	51.1	49.6	47.8	48.6
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	1.0	0.8	0.9	1.0
White (non-Hispanic)	46.1	48.0	49.0	47.9
Two or more races	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.5
Unknown	0.8	0.7	1.0	1.4
Number	10,618	11,158	10,971	11,432

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	4.3	4.2	3.7	3.9
Medical neglect	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Neglect	76.5	76.7	75.8	76.9
Physical abuse	23.0	22.4	22.1	22.0
Sexual abuse	6.7	7.8	7.5	7.4
Unknown/missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.4
Number	10,618	11,158	10,971	11,432

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	5,395	5,194	4,851	4,598	3,157	3,014	2,974	2,809	3,146	3,184	2,996	2,866	5,406	5,024	4,829	4,541
Median length of stay (months)	19.8	17.1	15.9	16.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	11.8	11.7	11.5	11.9	16.3	15.3	15.4	14.5

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	2.4	2.7	2.8	3.9	9.8	10.0	11.3	12.2	2.8	2.9	3.2	3.1	2.7	2.7	3.8	4.4
1 year	4.2	4.5	5.0	4.7	5.4	5.9	6.1	7.1	4.2	4.2	4.3	5.3	4.5	5.0	4.6	5.6
2 years	4.0	4.1	4.9	5.3	5.4	5.4	5.0	6.1	5.0	4.8	5.7	6.0	4.1	4.9	5.2	5.4
3 years	3.9	4.2	4.3	5.0	4.0	4.3	4.7	6.0	4.8	4.8	4.5	5.7	4.2	4.2	5.0	5.5
4 years	4.7	3.7	4.1	4.1	4.1	3.9	4.2	4.9	4.1	4.3	4.2	5.0	3.6	4.0	4.0	4.6
5 years	4.3	4.3	3.2	4.3	3.6	3.7	4.1	4.6	4.4	4.1	3.5	5.0	4.3	3.2	4.3	4.3
6 years	4.7	4.4	4.3	3.4	4.4	4.0	3.8	4.6	3.9	4.1	3.6	4.0	4.3	4.3	3.5	4.3
7 years	4.7	4.6	4.2	4.2	3.7	3.6	3.0	4.2	4.6	3.9	3.8	3.8	4.5	4.3	4.2	3.7
8 years	4.7	4.9	4.7	4.0	4.4	3.7	3.7	3.4	3.8	4.3	4.0	4.0	4.9	4.6	3.9	4.1
9 years	5.2	5.0	4.5	4.7	4.0	4.2	3.5	3.5	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.8	5.0	4.4	4.6	3.6
10 years	5.2	5.3	5.3	4.3	4.1	3.6	3.6	3.8	3.5	4.3	3.4	3.5	5.2	5.2	4.5	4.9
11 years	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.9	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.1	3.9	4.1	3.3	3.9	5.2	5.1	5.7	4.7
12 years	5.8	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.2	5.1	4.5	4.6	3.5	3.1	4.0	3.9	5.8	5.9	5.6	6.4
13 years	7.3	7.0	7.2	6.4	7.0	8.0	7.0	6.8	4.7	5.5	5.3	4.7	7.1	7.3	6.5	6.1
14 years	8.1	8.5	8.3	8.3	10.8	10.5	9.6	7.2	7.3	7.1	7.4	5.9	8.8	8.5	8.4	7.8
15 years	9.7	9.2	9.8	9.4	11.0	10.8	11.2	8.3	9.1	9.5	10.1	8.6	9.4	10.0	9.8	8.6
16 years	9.3	9.3	9.2	8.9	7.0	7.5	8.5	6.7	10.5	9.0	10.0	8.4	9.3	9.6	9.1	9.0
17 years	6.6	7.1	7.1	7.5	1.8	1.5	2.1	2.0	10.6	6.5	12.0	15.5	7.1	6.9	7.4	7.1
18 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.1	9.4	3.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.4
Asian	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	62.9	61.7	60.4	57.4	57.2	58.1	54.4	55.6	58.9	59.9	58.9	56.8	61.9	60.7	57.6	56.7
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.9	1.6	1.0	1.3	0.8	1.3	1.2	1.3	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.9
White (non-Hispanic)	34.0	35.4	36.8	39.6	39.8	39.0	42.3	41.3	37.8	37.1	37.7	40.2	35.2	36.5	39.7	40.3
Two or more races	1.4	1.2	1.1	0.9	0.7	0.4	0.4	1.0	1.1	0.7	0.7	0.9	1.2	1.0	0.8	0.9
Unknown	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	1,541	1,439	1,471	1,315
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	513	546	935	830

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	1.0	1.4	1.4	1.1
1 year	3.5	4.8	4.0	5.6
2 years	5.5	5.0	5.9	5.4
3 years	5.3	6.0	6.3	6.8
4 years	5.4	4.6	5.1	5.5
5 years	7.1	5.0	5.4	5.4
6 years	6.4	6.5	4.2	5.2
7 years	7.1	6.1	6.5	4.0
8 years	8.1	7.5	5.8	5.9
9 years	7.3	7.1	6.6	4.5
10 years	7.1	7.2	7.1	7.1
11 years	7.3	6.5	8.0	6.6
12 years	6.9	7.1	6.6	8.1
13 years	7.1	7.2	7.1	5.9
14 years	6.1	6.9	6.7	7.7
15 years	4.9	5.5	6.5	6.5
16 years	2.8	3.6	3.7	5.8
17 years	1.2	2.0	3.1	3.0
18 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.5
Asian	0.0	0.3	0.5	0.6
Black (non-Hispanic)	60.4	58.9	59.7	59.6
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	0.6	1.0	1.0	0.7
White (non-Hispanic)	36.6	37.6	36.8	37.5
Two or more races	1.7	2.0	1.5	0.8
Unknown	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	476	470	487	497

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	0.6	0.2	1.0	0.6
1 year	4.2	3.4	5.7	6.0
2 years	7.4	7.0	11.5	11.5
3 years	6.9	9.1	9.2	11.3
4 years	6.7	8.5	7.8	8.0
5 years	9.9	9.6	6.8	8.7
6 years	9.9	7.9	8.2	6.2
7 years	8.8	9.1	8.8	7.0
8 years	6.9	9.4	7.8	9.3
9 years	9.0	7.7	7.4	7.6
10 years	6.1	7.2	4.7	5.2
11 years	7.4	6.4	3.9	6.6
12 years	5.0	2.1	3.7	3.6
13 years	4.4	3.6	3.7	4.4
14 years	2.9	2.8	3.7	1.4
15 years	2.1	2.6	2.7	1.8
16 years	1.7	2.8	2.9	0.4
17 years	0.0	0.6	0.4	0.2
18 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.0
Asian	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	59.9	58.1	50.1	54.1
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	1.3	0.4	1.2	1.6
White (non-Hispanic)	36.8	38.9	45.8	41.9
Two or more races	1.5	1.7	2.5	2.2
Unknown	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Louisiana [OUTCOMES DATA]

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	92.0	93.2	92.5	91.3
Children with one or more recurrences	8.0	6.8	7.5	8.7
Number	5,021	4,670	4,938	4,908

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.73	0.58	0.74	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.27	99.42	99.26	—
Number	7,847	7,351	7,055	—

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	15.0	14.9	16.2	17.2
Guardianship	1.8	1.4	2.1	1.8
Reunification	58.6	55.9	55.2	67.5
Other	24.6	27.8	26.5	13.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	3,146	3,184	2,996	2,866

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	12.6	13.2	19.9	17.7
Guardianship	0.9	0.0	1.4	1.3
Reunification	42.4	40.1	33.5	56.3
Other	44.1	46.7	45.3	24.7
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	762	713	654	531

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.3	0.6	0.7	0.2
Guardianship	1.4	0.6	1.4	1.4
Reunification	46.6	41.0	44.4	74.1
Other	51.8	57.8	53.5	24.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,101	1,128	1,095	931

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	49.3	51.1	49.1	49.1
Children older than 12 at entry	50.7	48.9	50.9	50.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	298	311	291	279

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/American Indian				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	25.0	30.0	16.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.7	0.0	15.1	14.4	13.7	16.4
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4	1.2	1.8	1.5
Reunification	75.0	60.0	50.0	25.0	70.0	87.5	86.7	81.0	56.0	54.8	55.4	67.4
Other	0.0	10.0	33.3	75.0	30.0	12.5	6.7	19.0	27.5	29.6	29.0	14.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	8	10	6	4	10	8	15	21	1,853	1,908	1,766	1,627

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.6	5.1	15.0	34.8	14.8	15.7	19.8	17.8
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.5	0.0	2.5	1.8	2.7	1.9
Reunification	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	65.9	71.8	65.0	60.9	61.9	56.8	53.8	68.1
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	19.5	23.1	17.5	4.3	20.8	25.8	23.8	12.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	0	3	0	0	41	39	40	23	1,189	1,182	1,129	1,151

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	9.1	8.3	0.0	7.7	20.6	36.4	54.5	40.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	0.0	16.7	0.0	30.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	72.7	50.0	94.4	46.2	64.7	63.6	36.4	55.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	18.2	25.0	5.6	15.4	14.7	0.0	9.1	3.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	11	12	18	13	34	22	22	27	0	0	0	0

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	64.8	65.0	68.3	68.6
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	20.9	23.9	23.1	22.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	7.1	5.9	5.0	5.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	2.6	1.6	1.0	1.3
48 or more mos.	4.3	3.4	2.4	1.8
Missing data	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.6
Number	1,843	1,781	1,653	1,934

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	84.4	83.0	83.8	84.1
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	7.1	7.8	6.8	7.1
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	8.5	9.2	9.4	8.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	3,157	3,014	2,974	2,809

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	1.5	1.1	2.5	1.6
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	11.4	10.6	15.7	17.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	21.8	28.3	30.9	33.1
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	20.3	24.1	23.7	19.5
48 or more mos.	44.9	35.9	27.2	28.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	472	473	485	492

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	79.4	83.3	81.7	80.9	49.7	56.7	56.2	56.8	18.1	35.3	35.0	31.3	87.5	50.0	75.0	78.9
Children with 3 or more placements	19.3	15.3	16.2	18.0	49.8	42.6	43.4	43.2	81.8	64.6	65.0	68.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	3,849	3,784	3,682	3,443	1,510	1,588	1,549	1,516	3,185	2,832	2,586	2,429	8	4	8	19

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	2.1	1.5	2.2	1.0
Institutions	6.3	6.2	5.1	3.2
Other settings	91.7	92.3	92.7	95.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,901	1,801	1,759	1,894

Louisiana [STATE COMMENT]

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of Louisiana's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, 8.7 percent of the children who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percentage is higher than the national median of 7.1 percent. This represents a slight decline in performance from 2000 to 2003 (+8.8 percent change). At the same time, the rate of child victims increased from 2000 (8.7 child victims per 1,000 children in the population) to 2003 (9.7 child victims per 1,000 children in the population).

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

Data pertaining to child maltreatment in foster care in 2003 are not available for Louisiana.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003, 86.5 percent of the children exiting foster care in Louisiana were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.1), which is about equal to the national median of 86.3 percent. Also in 2003, 75.7 percent of the children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care were discharged to a permanent home, which is slightly more than the national median of 72.2 percent (measure 3.3). However, 75.3 of the children exiting foster care in 2003 who had a diagnosed disability were discharged to a permanent home, which is less than the national median of 79.5 percent (measure 3.2).

In contrast to these measures, performance on outcome measure 3.4 was far below the median. In 2003, 49.1 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger. The national median for this measure is 29.6 percent.

There were no substantive differences in exits to permanency as a function of children's race or ethnicity. (This was assessed only when a particular race or ethnicity accounted for at least 10 percent of the exits from foster care.) Black children exiting foster care were as likely to be discharged to a permanent home (85.3 percent) as were White children exiting foster care (87.8 percent). However, the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the foster care population in 2003 (56.7 percent) exceeded the percent of those children in the State's child population in that year (39.4 percent).

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

Louisiana's performance with regard to achieving outcome 4 varied as a function of the measure being assessed. In 2003, 68.6 percent of all reunifications from foster care occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1), which is less than the national median of 72.0 percent. However, performance on this measure exhibited a slight improvement from 2000 to 2003 (+5.9 percent change).

In comparison, in 2003, 7.1 percent of children entering foster care were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (measure 4.2), which is less than the national median of 9.5 percent. Performance on this measure did not change from 2000 to 2003.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2003, 18.9 percent of all finalized adoptions in Louisiana occurred within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care. Although this percent is less than the national median of 23.9 percent, it represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (+46.5 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

Louisiana's performance with regard to achieving outcome 6 varied depending on children's length of stay in foster care. In 2003, 80.9 percent of the children in foster care for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings, which is less than the national median of 84.2 percent. In addition, 56.8 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months, experienced no more than two placements settings, which is less than the national median of 59.1 percent and represents a 24.1 percent decline in placement stability compared to children in foster care for less than 12 months.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 4.2 percent of the children entering foster care in Louisiana who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution. This percent not only is less than the national median of 8.3 percent, but also represents an improvement in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (-50.0 percent change).

Maine [CONTEXT DATA]

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	299,577	293,220	290,801	286,746
Race/Ethnicity (%)¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6
Asian	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9
Black (non-Hispanic)	0.8	1.0	0.8	0.8
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.1
White (non-Hispanic)	94.6	94.4	95.0	94.9
Two or more races	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.5
% Child population in poverty	8.9	12.4	19.1	15.6

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	4,779	4,355	3,746	4,719
Children in foster care on 9/30	3,191	3,226	3,084	2,886
Children adopted	379	367	317	404

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	9,687	32.3 per 1,000	9,163	31.2 per 1,000	8,121	27.9 per 1,000	9,425	32.9 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	4,779	15.9 per 1,000	4,355	14.9 per 1,000	3,746	12.9 per 1,000	4,719	16.5 per 1,000
Child fatalities	3	1.0 per 100,000	2	0.7 per 100,000	2	0.7 per 100,000	3	1.0 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	9.3	10.4	11.6	11.8
1-5 years	30.6	31.8	34.4	33.5
6-10 years	31.0	30.7	29.2	29.5
11-15 years	23.1	24.1	21.5	21.8
16+ years	3.6	3.0	3.4	3.5
Unknown	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	4,779	4,355	3,746	4,719

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.5	0.8	0.9	0.9
Asian	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	0.9	0.7	1.3	1.1
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	1.2	0.8	0.7	0.7
White (non-Hispanic)	44.0	43.4	47.9	57.4
Two or more races	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.9
Unknown	52.4	53.3	48.2	38.7
Number	4,779	4,355	3,746	4,719

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	54.5	54.1	55.0	58.0
Medical neglect	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Neglect	62.0	62.3	66.1	71.9
Physical abuse	30.3	27.0	28.3	27.2
Sexual abuse	20.4	20.3	16.9	14.3
Unknown/missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	4,779	4,355	3,746	4,719

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	2,860	2,894	2,974	2,943	1,052	1,047	850	912	721	715	740	950	3,191	3,226	3,084	2,886
Median length of stay (months)	27.9	25.7	23.6	26.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	31.7	31.2	26.6	27.8	24.9	23.6	26.1	27.6

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	3.4	3.7	3.9	3.7	19.6	18.9	19.5	16.7	4.0	4.9	3.1	2.4	4.2	4.1	3.9	3.7
1 year	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.9	6.5	6.4	6.2	7.1	6.5	7.1	5.7	5.1	4.9	4.7	4.7	5.3
2 years	4.6	4.4	4.2	4.9	6.1	5.8	4.9	6.5	6.4	8.0	7.7	7.9	4.7	4.4	4.7	4.8
3 years	3.7	4.2	4.3	3.5	3.8	5.2	4.1	6.4	7.4	6.3	5.1	4.6	4.4	4.3	3.4	4.9
4 years	4.0	3.2	3.8	4.2	5.2	5.5	4.4	5.9	4.4	6.2	4.5	6.5	3.3	4.0	4.4	4.0
5 years	3.7	3.8	3.1	3.5	4.0	4.4	4.4	3.9	5.8	5.6	4.1	3.7	3.9	3.2	3.6	4.0
6 years	4.9	4.0	3.7	3.6	5.3	3.8	5.6	3.6	4.7	3.6	4.5	5.2	3.9	3.7	3.6	3.5
7 years	5.1	4.5	3.5	3.8	4.8	4.2	5.1	6.5	5.7	5.0	3.6	3.8	4.8	3.7	3.8	3.4
8 years	5.7	5.0	4.4	4.0	3.9	3.9	5.1	3.7	5.4	5.2	4.1	5.3	4.8	4.3	3.9	4.0
9 years	5.2	5.4	4.8	4.3	4.8	4.1	3.8	4.4	4.9	4.8	5.5	3.8	5.4	4.7	4.4	4.0
10 years	5.7	5.2	5.3	4.7	4.5	4.3	3.6	3.6	3.9	3.5	3.4	3.5	5.1	5.2	4.5	4.2
11 years	5.6	6.1	5.3	5.5	4.7	3.7	4.7	4.5	4.9	4.2	3.9	4.3	5.6	5.2	5.4	4.8
12 years	5.5	5.9	6.1	5.5	4.3	4.7	4.7	5.8	4.0	1.8	3.9	3.3	5.7	5.9	5.5	5.8
13 years	5.8	5.8	6.9	6.7	5.4	5.4	6.6	4.4	2.8	2.7	3.0	2.6	5.5	6.6	6.7	6.4
14 years	6.5	7.0	6.8	7.3	6.6	6.8	5.5	4.9	2.5	2.7	2.7	3.5	6.6	6.6	7.3	7.1
15 years	7.0	7.6	8.1	7.6	5.7	6.1	5.9	6.1	3.9	2.7	2.8	3.8	7.3	7.8	7.6	8.3
16 years	7.2	7.0	8.2	8.2	3.2	4.8	4.1	3.3	3.2	3.5	5.0	4.0	6.9	8.0	8.3	7.9
17 years	6.5	6.2	6.4	7.4	1.5	1.6	1.1	2.0	5.4	3.4	8.8	10.4	6.3	6.6	7.5	7.4
18 years	2.9	3.8	3.3	3.3	0.0	<.1	0.6	0.4	7.9	10.9	10.3	7.5	4.0	3.5	3.3	4.1
19 years	1.4	1.8	2.3	1.7	<.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	2.5	4.1	5.1	3.5	1.8	2.4	1.7	1.6
20 years	0.8	0.8	0.7	1.5	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.6	2.5	3.2	4.0	0.9	1.0	1.5	0.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2	1.5	0.0	1.5	0.0	<.1	0.3	0.2

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.9	1.8	1.5	1.8	2.5	1.5	2.1	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.1
Asian	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.8	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.1	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.4
Black (non-Hispanic)	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.4	2.3	2.2	1.5	1.1	2.8	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.8	2.1	1.7
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	2.3	2.1	2.8	2.5	2.1	2.4	1.2	3.1	1.5	2.0	2.2	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.5	2.7
White (non-Hispanic)	85.3	78.9	76.0	81.5	60.7	60.3	63.6	79.1	84.0	70.2	74.2	75.9	77.5	74.8	73.1	82.5
Two or more races	0.4	1.1	1.6	1.9	1.2	1.4	2.2	1.0	0.8	1.0	0.9	2.4	0.6	1.2	1.9	1.5
Unknown	8.3	14.0	16.1	10.1	32.1	31.2	28.6	12.3	10.1	20.8	19.6	13.1	15.8	18.1	18.7	9.8
Missing data	<.1	0.2	0.0	0.5	<.1	0.2	0.1	1.4	0.1	0.0	0.0	2.1	<.1	0.2	<.1	0.3

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	1,096	1,003	979	795
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	692	684	690	641

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	4.0	2.7	3.2	1.1
1 year	6.6	6.9	6.0	4.8
2 years	6.8	6.8	7.0	7.3
3 years	6.6	6.0	5.3	7.2
4 years	5.8	6.2	6.6	5.4
5 years	6.7	4.2	6.7	6.5
6 years	6.4	6.7	5.3	5.0
7 years	8.4	5.0	5.8	5.2
8 years	7.8	7.4	5.5	4.9
9 years	8.8	8.9	6.4	6.0
10 years	7.1	8.3	7.6	6.5
11 years	7.8	7.5	8.7	8.6
12 years	6.1	8.0	6.6	8.2
13 years	4.3	5.1	6.9	7.9
14 years	3.3	4.0	4.5	7.0
15 years	1.9	3.6	4.1	3.9
16 years	0.7	1.3	2.0	2.3
17 years	1.0	0.7	0.7	1.3
18 years	<.1	0.9	0.4	0.6
19 years	0.0	<.1	0.2	0.3
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	2.0	1.6	1.0	0.6
Asian	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	2.2	1.6	2.9	1.6
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	2.5	2.5	3.3	2.9
White (non-Hispanic)	83.0	77.8	75.6	83.3
Two or more races	0.8	1.3	1.6	2.1
Unknown	9.1	14.4	15.1	8.9
Missing data	<.1	0.6	0.1	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	379	367	317	404

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	0.3	3.3	0.3	0.7
1 year	7.4	5.4	8.2	6.7
2 years	9.8	10.9	13.2	11.1
3 years	10.8	12.8	8.5	8.9
4 years	7.7	7.6	8.5	9.2
5 years	9.8	8.7	6.6	4.2
6 years	7.1	6.8	7.3	9.7
7 years	8.2	7.6	4.7	6.2
8 years	9.8	7.6	6.0	8.2
9 years	8.2	7.1	8.8	6.7
10 years	6.6	4.9	5.7	5.9
11 years	5.3	3.5	5.4	8.2
12 years	3.2	2.7	5.0	3.5
13 years	3.4	3.8	4.4	4.7
14 years	0.8	2.2	3.8	1.7
15 years	1.3	2.2	2.2	2.5
16 years	0.5	1.1	0.6	0.7
17 years	0.0	1.4	0.6	1.0
18 years	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.2
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	2.1	1.4	3.2	2.0
Asian	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	2.4	2.5	1.3	1.5
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	0.8	0.5	1.9	2.0
White (non-Hispanic)	90.5	86.6	77.6	70.8
Two or more races	0.8	1.4	0.9	2.5
Unknown	3.4	7.1	15.1	20.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Maine [OUTCOMES DATA]

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	95.3	94.3	94.0	91.6
Children with one or more recurrences	4.7	5.7	6.0	8.4
Number	2,107	2,280	1,778	1,996

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	<.1	0.48	0.30	<.1
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.92	99.52	99.70	99.92
Number	3,767	3,724	3,620	3,604

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	41.3	38.9	32.3	29.6
Guardianship	0.7	0.3	0.4	0.3
Reunification	39.5	40.3	43.0	43.2
Other	2.9	3.8	5.9	22.2
Missing data	15.5	16.8	18.4	4.7
Number	721	715	740	950

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	52.4	37.8	50.0	32.9
Guardianship	14.3	2.7	0.0	0.6
Reunification	14.3	16.2	20.0	25.7
Other	0.0	13.5	6.7	34.1
Missing data	19.0	29.7	23.3	6.6
Number	21	37	30	167

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.8	1.2	1.6
Guardianship	0.0	0.8	0.6	0.4
Reunification	47.3	39.4	42.8	35.7
Other	8.2	12.1	13.3	55.8
Missing data	44.5	47.0	42.2	6.4
Number	146	132	173	249

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	26.7	33.3	39.4	30.8
Children older than 12 at entry	73.3	66.7	60.6	69.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	15	24	33	195

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/American Indian				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	38.5	22.2	54.5	25.0	0.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	62.5	50.0	36.4	25.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.1	6.3
Reunification	30.8	66.7	27.3	20.0	66.7	25.0	0.0	66.7	25.0	45.0	36.4	43.8
Other	23.1	0.0	0.0	40.0	0.0	25.0	0.0	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.0
Missing data	7.7	11.1	18.2	15.0	33.3	25.0	100.0	0.0	12.5	5.0	18.2	0.0
Number	13	18	11	20	3	4	1	3	8	20	11	16

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	27.3	21.4	31.3	30.4	45.2	46.4	32.8	28.4
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.4	0.2	0.3
Reunification	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	45.5	42.9	43.8	56.5	34.3	28.9	39.5	40.5
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.5	8.7	2.6	4.8	6.9	25.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	27.3	35.7	12.5	4.3	17.0	19.5	20.6	5.7
Number	0	1	0	0	11	14	16	23	606	502	549	721

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	11.0	14.8	28.3	40.3	50.0	71.4	42.9	43.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	82.2	75.8	57.2	52.4	50.0	14.3	57.1	43.5	100.0	0.0	0.0	85.0
Other	2.7	1.3	2.8	7.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	4.1	8.1	11.0	0.0	0.0	14.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	73	149	145	124	6	7	7	23	1	0	0	20

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	50.5	54.2	39.0	46.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	21.1	26.4	37.7	26.6
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	14.7	10.4	11.3	13.7
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	6.0	3.5	6.0	4.9
48 or more mos.	7.4	4.9	6.0	4.4
Missing data	0.4	0.7	0.0	4.1
Number	285	288	318	410

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	93.1	89.3	88.5	89.7
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	4.3	7.3	7.4	3.1
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	2.4	3.1	3.1	5.5
Missing data	0.3	0.4	1.1	1.8
Number	1,052	1,047	850	912

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	1.0	3.2	1.3	2.8
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	15.8	8.6	20.5	15.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	19.8	24.1	31.8	22.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	16.1	26.3	16.3	24.2
48 or more mos.	47.3	37.8	29.7	34.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.4
Number	298	278	239	281

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	75.8	74.1	76.1	79.3	46.6	48.0	44.8	47.2	17.4	18.2	16.0	17.7	100.0	100.0	83.3	81.0
Children with 3 or more placements	23.5	25.1	22.3	19.0	53.1	51.5	55.0	52.6	82.4	81.7	83.9	82.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	19.0
Number	1,093	1,103	911	943	746	825	877	759	2,072	2,011	2,030	2,111	1	2	6	42

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	3.6	4.4	4.7	2.0
Institutions	2.2	1.6	1.9	2.0
Other settings	89.9	89.1	91.7	93.6
Missing data	4.3	4.8	1.6	2.4
Number	775	746	618	614

Maine [STATE COMMENT]

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of Maine's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, 8.4 percent of the children in Maine who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percent not only exceeds the national median of 7.1 percent, but also represents a decline in performance from 2000 to 2003 (+78.7 percent change).

In 2003, the rate of child maltreatment victims was 16.5 child victims per 1,000 children in the State population, which exceeds the national median of 10.6 child victims per 1,000 children in the population. The 2003 rate represents a substantial increase from the child victim rate in 2002 (12.9 child victims per 1,000 children in the State population).

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

In 2003, 0.08 percent of the children in foster care in Maine were found to be maltreated by a foster parent or facility staff member (measure 2.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 0.39 percent. There was no change in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003, 73.1 percent of all children exiting foster care in Maine were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.1), which is substantially less than the national median of 86.3 percent. Also, 59.2 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.2), which is less than the national median of 79.5 percent. Furthermore, 37.7 percent of the children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home, which is considerably less than the national median of 72.2 percent and the lowest percentage in the nation for this measure.

In 2003, 30.8 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4). This percent not only exceeds the national median of 29.6 percent, but also represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (+15.4 percent change).

Some children who are reported as exits to emancipation appear to be discharged from foster care prior to their 18th birthday. In 2003, for example, 142 of the children exiting foster care were age 18 or older at the time of exit. However, 195 children were reported as exiting to emancipation.

Differences with regard to exits to permanency as a function of children's race or ethnicity (measure 3.5) could not be assessed because 76.0 percent of the children exiting foster care in Maine were White (non-Hispanic) and 13.0 percent of the children exiting foster care were reported as "Race Unable to Determine." However, the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the foster care population, although quite small (1.7 percent), exceeded the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the State's child population (0.8 percent).

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, only 46.3 percent of all reunifications occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1). This percent not only is less than the national median of 72.0 percent, but also represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (-8.3 percent change). Furthermore, 9.3 percent of reunifications occurred after the child had been in foster care for at least 36 months, which exceeds the national median of 3.5 percent.

Although Maine had a relatively low percentage of reunifications occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care, the State also had a relatively low percentage of re-entries into foster care within 12 months of a prior episode. In 2003, 3.1 percent of the children entering foster care were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (measure 4.2). This percentage not only is less than the national median of 9.5 percent, but also represents a performance improvement from 2000 to 2003 (-27.9 percent). In addition, only 5.5 percent of the children entering foster care were entering more than 12 months after a prior foster care episode. Consequently, only 8.6 percent of all children entering foster care in 2003 had been in foster care at a prior time, which is the lowest percentage in the nation.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

Maine's performance with regard to measure 5.1 cannot be assessed. In 2003, Maine reported 281 finalized adoptions to the Federal Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) foster care file. However, 404 adoptions were reported to the AFCARS adoption file. The timeliness of adoptions cannot be assessed without including all of the finalized adoptions that occurred in a given year.

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, 79.3 percent of the children in foster care in Maine for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings, which is less than the national median of 84.2 percent (measure 6.1). Also in 2003, 47.2 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months but less than 24 months experienced no more than two placement settings, which is less than the national median of 59.1 percent.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 4.0 percent of the children entering foster care in Maine who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage not only is less than the national median of 8.3 percent, but also reflects a performance improvement from 2000 to 2003 (-31.0 percent change).

Maryland [CONTEXT DATA]

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	1,358,275	1,366,100	1,372,243	1,378,092
Race/Ethnicity (%)¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2
Asian	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.9
Black (non-Hispanic)	31.9	31.8	31.0	30.8
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	5.3	5.5	5.4	5.6
White (non-Hispanic)	55.9	56.2	57.1	56.9
Two or more races	2.7	2.4	2.4	2.4
% Child population in poverty	6.9	7.6	7.4	10.6

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	0	19,750	15,843	16,688
Children in foster care on 9/30	13,113	12,564	12,026	11,521
Children adopted	552	815	949	734

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	—	— per 1,000	—	— per 1,000	37,177	27.1 per 1,000	31,919	23.2 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	—	— per 1,000	19,750	14.5 per 1,000	15,843	11.6 per 1,000	16,688	12.1 per 1,000
Child fatalities	—	— per 100,000	27	2.0 per 100,000	—	— per 100,000	27	2.0 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	—	5.1	6.3	7.6
1-5 years	—	26.9	27.0	27.4
6-10 years	—	30.6	29.5	28.7
11-15 years	—	26.7	27.6	28.9
16+ years	—	10.7	7.8	7.4
Unknown	—	0.0	1.8	0.0
Number	—	19,750	15,843	16,688

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	0.1	0.1	0.2
Asian	—	1.0	0.7	0.7
Black (non-Hispanic)	—	55.0	50.4	50.4
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	—	3.2	4.0	4.1
White (non-Hispanic)	—	38.7	39.4	38.7
Two or more races	—	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	—	2.0	5.5	5.8
Number	—	19,750	15,843	16,688

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	—	0.3	0.2	0.3
Medical neglect	—	0.0	0.0	0.0
Neglect	—	56.8	55.8	57.5
Physical abuse	—	31.3	32.4	32.0
Sexual abuse	—	12.5	14.1	12.5
Unknown/missing data	—	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	—	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	—	19,750	15,843	16,688

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	12,295	11,966	11,848	11,113	3,928	3,662	3,563	3,470	3,110	3,064	3,445	3,062	13,113	12,564	12,026	11,521
Median length of stay (months)	31.7	33.4	34.4	33.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	17.5	18.8	22.0	20.2	33.6	34.6	34.0	32.3

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	3.0	3.1	3.0	3.7	17.5	17.9	18.4	18.4	5.8	6.9	5.3	4.9	3.0	3.1	3.6	3.6
1 year	3.9	4.3	3.8	3.8	6.1	6.4	5.7	5.8	3.9	5.9	4.9	6.7	4.2	3.8	3.7	4.3
2 years	3.7	4.3	4.3	3.8	5.7	5.0	4.8	5.0	5.0	5.8	6.1	5.6	4.4	4.3	3.8	3.7
3 years	4.1	3.6	4.2	3.7	5.1	4.9	4.2	4.9	5.7	4.7	5.8	5.5	3.8	4.3	3.6	3.5
4 years	4.0	3.9	3.6	4.0	4.4	4.0	5.3	4.1	4.8	5.0	4.9	5.0	4.1	3.6	4.1	3.6
5 years	4.4	3.6	3.4	3.4	4.8	4.0	3.8	4.0	5.4	4.1	4.6	4.0	3.8	3.4	3.4	3.8
6 years	5.3	4.2	3.6	3.2	4.9	3.7	3.9	3.8	5.1	4.4	4.6	3.9	4.4	3.7	3.3	3.4
7 years	5.5	4.7	4.0	3.3	4.4	4.7	3.9	3.7	6.0	4.9	4.6	3.5	4.8	4.0	3.3	3.3
8 years	5.9	5.5	4.7	4.2	5.1	4.8	4.3	4.4	4.8	5.1	4.4	4.1	5.4	4.7	4.1	3.4
9 years	5.9	5.9	5.5	4.6	5.0	4.2	4.5	4.4	5.4	5.8	4.4	4.2	5.8	5.4	4.6	4.1
10 years	6.0	5.9	5.5	5.7	4.9	4.5	4.8	4.0	5.8	5.2	4.7	5.1	5.7	5.5	5.5	4.6
11 years	5.9	5.8	6.0	5.7	4.9	5.0	5.7	4.6	4.7	4.5	5.1	4.2	5.7	5.9	5.6	5.5
12 years	5.9	6.2	6.0	6.3	4.8	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.0	4.1	4.4	4.9	6.0	6.0	6.1	5.8
13 years	5.8	6.1	6.7	6.7	5.1	5.4	5.3	5.8	4.2	4.5	3.8	4.5	5.9	6.5	6.4	6.4
14 years	6.5	6.2	6.9	7.5	5.3	6.8	6.3	6.6	4.2	4.1	4.5	4.8	5.9	6.6	7.2	7.1
15 years	6.2	7.3	6.6	7.4	5.6	6.1	6.2	6.3	4.9	5.8	5.2	5.2	6.8	6.5	7.2	7.9
16 years	6.5	6.4	7.3	7.1	3.5	4.2	4.5	5.0	5.0	5.4	5.1	5.6	6.0	7.1	6.7	7.4
17 years	5.6	6.2	6.1	7.3	2.7	2.9	2.8	3.5	4.5	4.2	4.4	5.6	6.0	6.0	7.0	6.7
18 years	3.7	4.0	4.9	4.8	<.1	0.2	<.1	0.1	6.5	5.5	6.0	7.6	4.1	4.9	4.8	5.6
19 years	2.2	2.7	2.9	3.7	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	2.4	3.2	2.7	3.1	2.6	2.8	3.6	3.4
20 years	<.1	<.1	1.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.9	3.5	1.9	1.7	2.1	2.3	2.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	<.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
Asian	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	78.6	78.5	78.1	76.7	68.7	67.8	62.6	63.2	68.2	68.8	68.3	66.6	78.1	77.7	76.3	75.3
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.5	2.3	2.2	2.8	2.4	1.7	2.3	2.0	2.5	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.5
White (non-Hispanic)	18.7	18.5	18.7	19.6	26.2	26.7	31.0	28.7	27.7	26.0	26.9	27.5	18.8	19.0	20.0	20.3
Two or more races	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.9	1.2	1.7	1.2	1.9	0.7	1.3	1.5	1.5	0.6	0.9	0.8	1.0
Unknown	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.8	1.1	1.0	2.0	3.3	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.5	0.8	0.7	0.9	1.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	3,073	3,299	2,998	2,584
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	1,688	1,746	1,579	1,416

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	1.5	1.4	0.9	0.6
1 year	3.3	3.9	4.4	4.0
2 years	6.5	5.8	5.6	4.9
3 years	5.3	6.9	5.5	6.2
4 years	6.4	5.1	6.8	5.2
5 years	6.1	6.0	5.2	5.7
6 years	6.5	6.3	5.2	5.0
7 years	7.2	5.6	5.7	5.0
8 years	8.4	7.1	5.6	5.4
9 years	7.5	8.5	6.8	5.8
10 years	7.8	6.7	8.0	5.8
11 years	7.3	7.1	6.6	7.6
12 years	6.4	6.3	7.4	6.7
13 years	5.8	6.4	6.4	7.5
14 years	5.0	5.9	6.3	6.5
15 years	4.2	4.3	5.3	6.5
16 years	2.4	3.7	3.6	4.7
17 years	1.3	1.5	2.4	3.8
18 years	0.8	0.9	1.1	2.1
19 years	0.1	0.5	0.6	0.7
20+ years	<.1	0.2	0.5	0.5
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Asian	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	79.7	80.6	79.2	79.8
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.0
White (non-Hispanic)	18.1	16.9	17.8	16.9
Two or more races	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.0
Unknown	0.7	0.5	0.8	1.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	552	815	949	734

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	1.6	0.7	0.5	0.8
1 year	4.9	4.4	4.2	6.4
2 years	6.0	9.4	9.1	9.8
3 years	8.7	9.3	11.9	9.9
4 years	7.1	9.8	8.3	9.9
5 years	10.0	9.6	9.0	7.5
6 years	9.4	7.9	8.4	5.7
7 years	12.3	8.7	8.6	5.7
8 years	10.7	6.0	7.0	5.9
9 years	7.2	9.2	7.1	5.9
10 years	5.6	6.7	5.9	7.5
11 years	6.5	5.0	6.0	3.7
12 years	2.9	2.9	4.7	4.9
13 years	3.3	2.7	2.5	4.0
14 years	1.1	2.7	3.3	4.2
15 years	1.3	2.5	1.8	3.3
16 years	0.9	1.1	0.9	1.6
17 years	0.4	0.9	0.5	2.0
18 years	0.2	0.2	0.2	1.2
19 years	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Asian	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.7
Black (non-Hispanic)	68.1	72.8	72.8	68.8
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	2.4	2.0	1.1	0.7
White (non-Hispanic)	26.6	22.0	23.3	25.9
Two or more races	2.4	3.2	2.3	2.7
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.3	1.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Maryland [OUTCOMES DATA]

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	—	—	92.0	93.1
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	8.0	6.9
Number	—	—	7,400	7,862

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	<.1
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	99.98
Number	—	—	—	13,901

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	15.5	19.8	22.5	21.6
Guardianship	4.6	3.3	0.6	1.2
Reunification	60.4	60.2	58.5	52.7
Other	10.0	10.4	14.7	14.6
Missing data	9.5	6.3	3.8	9.9
Number	3,110	3,064	3,445	3,062

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	13.7	17.9	19.4	20.9
Guardianship	2.2	2.8	0.7	1.0
Reunification	59.0	55.7	49.5	48.0
Other	16.0	16.6	26.5	21.4
Missing data	9.2	7.1	3.9	8.7
Number	556	609	717	631

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	1.3	1.8	1.5	2.0
Guardianship	2.9	3.7	1.3	1.4
Reunification	56.0	58.0	52.5	49.6
Other	27.6	29.3	37.3	34.2
Missing data	12.2	7.2	7.5	12.7
Number	682	652	751	695

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	33.9	36.8	43.5	44.7
Children older than 12 at entry	66.1	63.2	56.5	55.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	230	231	384	295

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/American Indian				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	26.7	0.0	14.3	44.4	16.8	22.0	24.9	23.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.0	3.9	0.6	1.3
Reunification	50.0	100.0	50.0	60.0	46.7	77.8	42.9	33.3	59.4	57.4	57.3	49.1
Other	0.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	6.7	22.2	28.6	11.1	8.9	10.6	13.7	14.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	40.0	13.3	0.0	14.3	11.1	8.9	6.0	3.4	11.9
Number	4	4	4	5	15	9	7	9	2,122	2,109	2,353	2,039

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.6	9.9	10.0	10.4	11.7	14.9	17.1	19.7
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4	0.0	6.5	1.5	2.1	0.5	0.8
Reunification	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	67.3	73.2	67.1	61.0	63.1	65.7	61.0	59.9
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.3	8.5	17.1	14.3	12.4	10.4	17.0	14.5
Missing data	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	5.8	7.0	5.7	7.8	11.2	6.8	4.4	5.0
Number	1	1	1	0	52	71	70	77	860	797	925	841

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	20.6	12.5	3.0	13.0	18.2	29.3	40.4	15.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	58.8	78.1	75.8	60.9	54.5	56.1	46.2	64.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	11.8	9.4	12.1	4.3	9.1	0.0	9.6	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	8.8	0.0	9.1	21.7	18.2	12.2	3.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	34	32	33	46	22	41	52	45	0	0	0	0

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	55.3	54.6	50.3	45.1
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	17.2	18.7	22.0	27.1
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	11.9	11.5	9.2	11.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	6.3	5.3	5.8	4.9
48 or more mos.	9.3	9.9	10.1	11.5
Missing data	0.0	<.1	2.5	0.0
Number	1,879	1,846	2,014	1,615

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	79.5	79.6	79.7	79.3
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	9.0	9.6	8.5	8.8
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	11.0	10.7	11.7	11.8
Missing data	0.4	0.1	<.1	<.1
Number	3,928	3,662	3,563	3,470

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	6.7	4.8	3.6	3.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	7.3	11.2	11.2	12.7
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	16.4	14.5	18.6	20.9
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	15.0	17.3	16.3	17.1
48 or more mos.	54.7	52.1	50.1	45.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0
Number	481	606	775	660

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	95.4	94.9	94.3	94.4	81.9	79.8	77.8	80.1	55.6	51.6	50.4	50.8	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	4.6	5.1	5.5	5.6	18.1	20.2	21.6	19.9	44.4	48.4	49.4	49.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	4,246	4,053	3,957	3,844	2,733	2,574	2,539	2,552	9,238	8,999	8,904	8,178	6	2	11	9

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	4.2	5.9	5.7	6.2
Institutions	4.1	1.4	1.2	0.6
Other settings	90.1	91.2	91.7	90.9
Missing data	1.6	1.5	1.4	2.3
Number	3,029	2,699	2,643	2,492

Maryland [STATE COMMENT]

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of Maryland's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, 6.9 percent of the children in Maryland who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percent is about equal to the national median of 7.1 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 to 2003 (-13.8 percent change). No data are available for this measure in 2000 or 2001.

In 2003, the rate of child maltreatment victims in Maryland was 12.1 child victims per 1,000 children in the population, which exceeds the national median of 10.6 child victims per 1,000 children in the population. The child victim rate declined from 2001 (14.5 child victims per 1,000 children in the population) to 2003.

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

In 2003, 0.02 percent of the children in foster care in Maryland were found to be maltreated by a foster parent or facility staff member (measure 2.1). This percentage not only is less than the national median of 0.39 percent, but also represents an improvement in performance from 2002 to 2003 (-96.2 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003, 75.5 percent of children exiting foster care in Maryland (measure 3.1) were discharged to a permanent home, which is less than the national median of 86.3 percent. Also, 69.9 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) were discharged to a permanent home, which is less than the national median of 79.5 percent. Furthermore, 53.0 percent of the children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home, which is less than the national median of 72.2 percent. These data are difficult to interpret, however, because 10 percent of the children exiting foster care in 2003 did not have a discharge reason.

In 2003, 44.7 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4). This percent not only exceeds the national median of 29.6 percent, but also represents a performance decline from 2000 to 2003 (-31.9 percent change). An additional finding is that the number of children exiting to emancipation (295 children) is less than the number of children exiting foster care who were age 18 or older at the time of exit (386 children).

It is not possible to assess differences with regard to exits to permanency as a function of children's race (measure 3.5) because there were no discharge reasons for almost 12 percent of the Black (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care. However, the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the foster care population (75.3 percent) far exceeded the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the State's child population (30.8 percent).

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, only 45.1 percent of all reunifications in Maryland occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1). This percent is not only less than the national median of 72.0 percent, but also represents a decline in performance on the measure from 2000 to 2003 (-18.4 percent change). Furthermore, 16.4 percent of reunifications occurred after the child had been in foster care for at least 36 months, which is substantially more than the national median of 3.5 percent.

Although Maryland had a relatively low percent of reunifications within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care, the State also had a relatively low percentage of re-entries into foster care within 12 months of a prior episode. In 2003, 8.8 percent of the children entering foster care were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (measure 4.1), which is less than the national median of 9.5 percent. There was no change in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003. However, also in 2003, 11.8 percent of the children entering foster care were entering more than 12 months after a prior foster care episode. Consequently, 20.6 percent of all children entering foster care in Maryland in 2003 had been in foster care at a prior time.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2003, only 16.2 percent of all finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 5.1). Although this percent is less than the national median of 23.9 percent, it represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (+15.7 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, 94.4 percent of the children in foster care in Maryland for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings (measure 6.1), which exceeds the national median of 84.2 percent. Also in 2003, 80.1 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months, experienced no more than two placement settings, which is considerably more than the national median of 59.1 percent and among the highest percentages in the nation for this measure.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 6.8 percent of the children entering foster care in Maryland who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage not only is less than the national median of 8.3 percent, but also represents improved performance from 2000 to 2003 (-18.1 percent change).

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	1,497,490	1,473,885	1,482,956	1,487,118
Race/Ethnicity (%) ¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	4.0	4.2	4.1	4.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	6.5	7.3	6.9	7.0
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	10.5	10.8	10.3	10.6
White (non-Hispanic)	75.2	75.4	76.6	76.1
Two or more races	2.7	2.0	1.8	1.9
% Child population in poverty	13.9	11.9	13.0	12.0

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	34,150	34,721	34,995	36,500
Children in foster care on 9/30	11,619	11,568	12,510	12,608
Children adopted	861	778	808	733

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	63,446	42.4 per 1,000	63,305	43.0 per 1,000	64,343	43.4 per 1,000	83,270	56.0 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	34,150	22.8 per 1,000	34,721	23.6 per 1,000	34,995	23.6 per 1,000	36,500	24.5 per 1,000
Child fatalities	4	0.3 per 100,000	19	1.3 per 100,000	—	— per 100,000	—	— per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	8.1	8.1	8.3	8.2
1-5 years	29.0	29.4	29.4	29.5
6-10 years	30.6	30.1	29.4	28.6
11-15 years	25.9	26.5	26.7	27.2
16+ years	5.5	5.5	5.8	6.2
Unknown	0.9	0.5	0.4	0.3
Number	34,150	34,721	34,995	36,500

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Asian	2.0	1.9	1.7	1.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	13.6	14.2	14.0	14.1
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	15.9	18.4	19.9	20.7
White (non-Hispanic)	43.5	45.2	46.9	47.3
Two or more races	1.5	1.7	1.9	2.3
Unknown	23.5	18.5	15.5	14.0
Number	34,150	34,721	34,995	36,500

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3
Medical neglect	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Neglect	87.0	88.1	89.0	89.8
Physical abuse	19.0	17.9	16.9	16.2
Sexual abuse	3.5	3.2	3.5	3.0
Unknown/missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0
Number	34,150	34,721	34,995	36,500

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	10,629	11,029	11,503	12,240	7,381	7,174	6,555	6,507	6,392	6,636	5,548	6,139	11,619	11,568	12,510	12,608
Median length of stay (months)	19.2	17.9	19.1	19.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.3	9.4	12.7	13.0	17.4	17.5	18.6	18.7

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	2.6	3.0	3.1	3.3	9.2	9.7	10.8	10.8	3.0	3.4	3.2	3.0	3.0	3.2	3.3	3.3
1 year	3.8	3.9	4.0	3.9	4.3	4.8	4.9	4.3	3.7	4.7	4.8	4.5	3.9	4.0	3.9	3.9
2 years	4.1	4.3	3.9	3.9	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.6	4.7	4.9	4.2	4.0	3.9	3.7
3 years	3.9	3.8	4.0	3.9	3.6	4.5	4.2	3.6	4.1	4.3	4.3	4.1	3.8	4.0	3.9	3.6
4 years	4.3	3.6	3.7	3.9	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.7	3.9	4.1	3.9	4.3	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.6
5 years	3.8	4.0	3.2	3.7	3.1	3.4	3.9	3.4	3.8	3.7	3.8	4.1	3.9	3.2	3.7	3.7
6 years	4.2	3.7	3.8	3.2	3.8	3.2	3.3	3.5	4.0	4.0	3.2	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.2	3.4
7 years	4.5	4.3	3.6	3.7	3.9	3.6	2.9	3.0	4.2	3.6	3.5	3.2	4.2	3.6	3.7	3.1
8 years	4.5	4.5	4.1	3.5	3.9	3.6	3.3	2.8	3.9	3.8	3.4	3.1	4.4	4.1	3.4	3.5
9 years	5.0	4.3	4.3	4.1	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.4	4.3	3.6	3.6	3.2	4.3	4.4	4.1	3.5
10 years	5.1	4.8	4.4	4.3	4.1	3.5	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.0	3.5	3.4	4.7	4.4	4.3	4.1
11 years	4.7	5.5	4.8	4.4	4.4	3.9	3.6	4.2	3.5	4.0	3.6	3.7	5.5	4.7	4.5	4.6
12 years	5.3	5.4	5.7	5.0	5.5	5.9	5.5	5.3	3.8	4.6	3.6	3.7	5.4	5.7	5.0	4.9
13 years	6.1	6.4	6.3	6.8	7.7	7.1	7.8	7.7	5.4	5.1	4.4	4.4	6.5	6.1	7.0	6.3
14 years	7.3	7.4	7.8	7.8	10.5	9.6	9.8	10.7	7.5	7.0	6.0	6.6	7.6	7.9	7.9	8.6
15 years	8.6	8.6	9.0	9.6	12.1	12.5	12.0	11.6	10.3	10.3	8.8	8.8	9.1	9.1	9.8	9.9
16 years	9.1	8.9	9.3	9.9	8.9	9.2	9.8	9.9	9.7	9.3	10.0	10.0	9.1	9.4	9.9	9.9
17 years	7.3	8.0	8.2	8.3	3.0	3.7	2.8	3.6	7.6	6.4	9.9	12.3	7.8	8.2	8.2	8.9
18 years	2.7	2.6	3.3	3.2	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	6.7	7.6	7.4	5.2	2.5	3.3	3.1	3.2
19 years	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.9	<.1	0.2	<.1	0.2	1.1	1.2	1.7	1.8	1.5	1.5	1.8	2.0
20 years	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.9	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.5	0.6	1.1	0.7	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.3
Missing data	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.1	0.1	<.1	<.1	1.2	1.2	1.6	1.3	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	<.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1
Asian	1.5	1.6	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.5	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.3	2.1	1.6	1.7	1.9	1.8
Black (non-Hispanic)	19.0	17.7	18.6	17.9	13.5	13.5	15.8	16.1	15.8	14.8	17.1	15.8	17.3	16.8	17.8	18.0
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	20.6	21.0	24.8	25.3	16.5	15.4	24.4	24.3	16.6	18.1	23.6	25.4	20.3	19.1	25.2	24.7
White (non-Hispanic)	48.4	46.8	49.8	49.6	45.1	43.9	49.8	49.5	48.2	46.5	50.0	50.0	46.4	45.2	49.7	49.4
Two or more races	0.6	1.0	2.2	2.4	1.1	1.3	2.7	2.6	0.6	1.3	2.2	2.3	0.9	1.1	2.4	2.5
Unknown	3.5	3.4	2.1	2.7	3.5	3.1	3.7	3.8	3.3	3.1	2.6	3.2	3.7	3.4	2.7	3.0
Missing data	6.0	8.2	0.5	<.1	18.0	20.7	0.9	1.6	13.5	14.1	2.1	1.0	9.6	12.5	<.1	0.4

D. Characteristics of Children "Waiting for Adoption"⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	3,145	2,910	3,109	3,059
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	895	718	1,187	967

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	3.0	3.2	3.2	3.2
1 year	6.6	8.0	7.7	7.8
2 years	8.5	8.3	8.2	8.4
3 years	8.0	8.3	8.4	8.1
4 years	7.3	8.1	8.5	8.0
5 years	8.1	6.9	7.5	8.4
6 years	7.2	7.8	6.7	6.6
7 years	8.4	6.9	7.7	7.0
8 years	8.4	7.7	6.8	7.0
9 years	7.2	7.5	7.4	6.3
10 years	7.4	6.9	6.6	6.9
11 years	7.2	6.3	6.0	5.9
12 years	4.9	5.9	5.0	5.3
13 years	3.6	3.3	4.5	4.2
14 years	2.2	2.3	2.7	3.3
15 years	1.2	1.4	2.0	1.8
16 years	0.4	0.7	0.8	1.1
17 years	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.5
18 years	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.2
19 years	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0
20+ years	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.2	0.1	<.1
Asian	1.9	2.0	1.8	1.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	16.4	14.4	15.8	16.1
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	24.8	25.6	31.1	29.9
White (non-Hispanic)	45.0	41.6	44.7	45.1
Two or more races	1.1	1.8	3.3	3.6
Unknown	3.4	3.2	3.0	3.6
Missing data	7.2	11.2	0.0	<.1

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	861	778	808	733

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	1.4	1.2	1.6	1.5
1 year	6.4	8.2	10.4	11.1
2 years	10.1	11.3	11.9	11.6
3 years	10.8	9.4	8.4	9.7
4 years	10.6	9.6	10.6	10.4
5 years	10.2	10.2	7.8	8.0
6 years	8.7	8.5	7.2	8.0
7 years	8.5	7.1	6.8	6.3
8 years	7.9	8.0	6.2	6.4
9 years	7.5	4.8	7.3	6.0
10 years	4.8	4.5	5.0	6.5
11 years	5.3	5.3	4.5	4.2
12 years	3.9	4.1	5.2	3.4
13 years	1.9	3.6	2.8	2.5
14 years	0.9	2.2	1.4	1.8
15 years	0.5	1.2	1.6	0.7
16 years	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.7
17 years	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.7
18 years	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.3
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.1
Asian	2.3	1.7	1.4	2.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	21.5	17.4	15.0	11.3
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	20.3	23.1	25.4	28.4
White (non-Hispanic)	49.7	52.2	50.4	50.5
Two or more races	2.8	2.1	5.7	3.4
Unknown	2.2	2.3	2.1	4.0
Missing data	0.6	1.2	0.1	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	89.3	88.6	89.0	89.0
Children with one or more recurrences	10.7	11.4	11.0	11.0
Number	16,225	17,022	16,462	17,359

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	1.07	1.19	1.11	1.06
Children not maltreated while in foster care	98.93	98.81	98.89	98.94
Number	16,579	16,619	16,650	17,337

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	12.1	12.8	14.3	12.5
Guardianship	6.7	4.3	7.9	8.0
Reunification	54.6	59.3	60.2	65.1
Other	9.3	11.6	15.5	14.3
Missing data	17.3	12.0	2.0	0.0
Number	6,392	6,636	5,548	6,139

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	16.7	38.9	26.8	37.6
Guardianship	8.3	0.0	6.3	6.6
Reunification	25.0	38.9	43.5	39.2
Other	33.3	11.1	21.8	16.5
Missing data	16.7	11.1	1.5	0.0
Number	12	18	395	587

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3
Guardianship	2.6	1.9	2.7	3.3
Reunification	59.5	61.3	65.0	69.7
Other	16.8	22.0	29.1	26.7
Missing data	21.0	14.6	3.1	0.0
Number	2,694	2,655	2,262	2,527

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	24.2	25.5	23.1	23.3
Children older than 12 at entry	75.8	74.5	76.9	76.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Number	557	542	726	759

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	30.8	0.0	7.1	11.8	15.4	10.4	7.1	17.0	15.9	12.4	10.0
Guardianship	0.0	7.7	8.3	0.0	2.5	1.6	4.8	3.1	9.1	5.4	11.1	11.2
Reunification	30.0	46.2	83.3	50.0	64.7	61.8	70.4	74.8	43.0	52.2	57.3	63.8
Other	50.0	7.7	8.3	42.9	5.9	13.0	13.6	15.0	11.6	14.2	16.4	15.0
Missing data	20.0	7.7	0.0	0.0	15.1	8.1	0.8	0.0	19.3	12.3	2.9	0.0
Number	10	13	12	14	119	123	125	127	1,010	982	947	973

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	14.6	16.4	15.4	13.7	12.9	14.2	14.5	12.5
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.3	4.2	6.0	5.7	7.1	4.5	8.3	8.9
Reunification	100.0	50.0	0.0	50.0	51.4	53.8	62.9	67.8	54.8	57.3	58.7	62.9
Other	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	8.8	12.3	14.3	12.8	10.3	12.3	16.5	15.6
Missing data	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	18.9	13.3	1.4	0.0	14.8	11.7	2.1	0.0
Number	1	2	1	2	1,058	1,204	1,308	1,562	3,079	3,088	2,774	3,068

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	7.9	6.8	13.3	15.9	41.5	22.9	35.2	20.9	0.1	0.1	0.0	<.1
Guardianship	8.4	5.3	6.3	2.1	0.0	2.4	4.9	10.1	3.4	2.9	4.3	<.1
Reunification	46.3	68.0	69.9	72.3	51.2	62.7	55.7	61.2	72.3	78.1	68.1	98.3
Other	15.0	9.2	8.4	9.7	0.0	1.2	4.1	7.9	2.8	6.8	22.4	1.7
Missing data	22.4	10.7	2.1	0.0	7.3	10.8	0.0	0.0	21.4	12.1	5.2	<.1
Number	214	206	143	195	41	83	122	139	860	935	116	59

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	76.6	75.1	71.6	66.7
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	14.4	16.6	16.8	18.7
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	4.3	3.9	5.8	7.6
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.9	1.4	2.2	3.6
48 or more mos.	1.7	1.9	2.9	3.0
Missing data	1.1	1.1	0.7	0.5
Number	3,489	3,935	3,338	3,998

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	68.3	68.2	74.9	75.8
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	20.2	20.0	11.2	11.7
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	11.3	11.7	13.9	12.5
Missing data	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0
Number	7,381	7,174	6,555	6,507

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	2.2	2.1	2.0	1.6
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	13.5	17.2	17.2	18.0
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	20.7	24.0	26.3	26.7
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	20.3	18.8	24.4	22.0
48 or more mos.	43.2	37.8	30.2	31.7
Missing data	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	773	849	796	767

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	74.3	73.2	75.8	75.8	53.8	54.4	52.5	51.9	30.3	30.8	29.5	28.7	56.2	57.1	41.7	34.0
Children with 3 or more placements	22.7	23.7	21.4	21.5	44.8	45.3	47.4	48.0	69.5	69.1	70.5	71.3	0.8	1.0	1.7	0.0
Number	8,154	8,113	7,356	7,584	3,386	3,614	3,700	3,838	6,350	6,379	6,942	7,278	121	98	60	47

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	3.4	4.0	3.3	3.3
Institutions	3.5	3.8	3.6	3.4
Other settings	92.9	92.1	93.0	93.2
Missing data	0.3	<.1	0.1	<.1
Number	3,998	3,870	3,562	3,476

Massachusetts [STATE COMMENT]

Lewis H. Spence, Commissioner
Department of Social Services
Office of Health and Human Services

The following are Massachusetts comments on the State data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2003: Report to Congress*.

Section B (Maltreatment Information Overview): In 2003, the Massachusetts Department of Social Services started reporting children with no alleged maltreatment who were included in reports alleging maltreatment of their siblings or other children in the household. For Federal Fiscal Year 2003, 17,231 children (duplicated count) were included in reports of maltreatment although no maltreatment was alleged for these children. This accounts for the increase in the number and rate of “Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment” from 2002 to 2003.

In 2001, the count of children who died from abuse/neglect was expanded to include deceased children whose families were unknown to DSS or were closed more than six months prior to the child’s death. The maltreatment fatalities recorded in 2000 and earlier years were limited to children from families known to DSS (including families with case closures six months or less before the child’s death).

Outcome Measure 4.1 (Time to Reunification): In 2002 Massachusetts began to include a trial home visit period of up to 6 months, as required by AFCARS, after a child returned home. This has increased the apparent time in placement for many children.

Outcome Measure 2.1 (Maltreatment in Foster Care): In 2003, Massachusetts started reporting AFCARS IDs on the NCANDS Child File. If the numerator for Outcome measure 2.1 is limited to those children who were also reported on AFCARS for the same period, the measure is .9 percent, not 1.07 percent (153 children rather than 186).

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of Massachusetts performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, 11.0 percent of the children in Massachusetts who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percent exceeds the national median of 7.1 percent. There was no change in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003.

The rate of child victims in 2003 also exceeded the national median. In 2003, the rate of child maltreatment victims was 24.6 child victims per 1,000 children in the State population, which is considerably higher than the national median of 10.6 child victims per 1,000 children in the population. The 2003 child victim rate represents an increase from the rate in 2000 (22.8 per 1,000 children in the population).

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

In 2003, 1.07 percent of the children in foster care in Massachusetts were found to be maltreated by a foster parent or facility staff member (measure 2.1), which exceeds the national median of 0.39 percent. There was no change in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003, 85.6 percent of children exiting foster care in Massachusetts (measure 3.1) were discharged to a permanent home, which is close to the national median of 86.3 percent. Also, 83.4 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) were discharged to a permanent home, which is slightly higher than the national median of 79.5 percent. Furthermore, 73.3 percent of the children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home, which is about equal to the national median of 72.2 percent.

In 2003, 23.3 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4). This percent is less than the national median of 29.6 percent. Performance on this measure did not change from 2000 to 2003.

Many of the children who are reported as exits to emancipation appear to be discharged from foster care prior to their 18th birthday. In 2003, for example, 472 of the children exiting foster care were age 18 or older at the time of exit. However, 759 children were reported as exiting to emancipation.

There were no real differences with regard to exits to permanency as a function of children's race or ethnicity (measure 3.5). (This was assessed only when a particular race or ethnicity accounted for at least 10 percent of the exits from foster care.) White (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care were as likely to be discharged to a permanent home (84.3 percent) as were Black (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care (85.0 percent), and Hispanic children exiting foster care (87.2 percent). However, the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the foster care population (18.0 percent) exceeded the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the State's child population (7.0 percent). Similarly, the percent of Hispanic children

in the State's foster care population (24.7 percent) exceeded the percent of Hispanic children in the State's child population (10.6 percent).

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, 66.7 percent of all reunifications in Massachusetts occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1). This percent not only is less than the national median of 72.0 percent, but also represents a decline in performance on the measure from 2000 to 2003 (-12.9 percent change). In addition, 6.6 percent of reunifications occurred after the child had been in foster care for at least 36 months, which exceeds the national median of 3.5 percent.

With regard to re-entries into foster care, in 2003, 11.7 percent of the children entering foster care were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (measure 4.2). Although this percent is larger than the national median of 9.5 percent, it represents a performance improvement from 2000 to 2003 (-42.1 percent change). However, 12.5 percent of the children entering foster care in 2003 were re-entering more than 24 months after a prior episode. Consequently, 24.2 percent of all children entering foster care in 2003 had been in foster care at a prior time.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2003, 19.6 percent of all finalized adoptions in Massachusetts occurred within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 5.1). Although this is less than the national median of 23.9 percent, it represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (+24.8 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, 75.8 percent of the children in foster care in Massachusetts for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings, which is less than the national median of 84.2 percent (measure 6.1). Also in 2003, 51.9 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months, experienced no more than two placement settings, which is less than the national median of 59.1 percent.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 6.7 percent of the children entering foster care in Massachusetts who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1), which is less than the national median of 8.3 percent. There was no change in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003.

Michigan [CONTEXT DATA]

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	2,593,056	2,571,436	2,558,635	2,538,920
Race/Ethnicity (%) ¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5
Asian	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	17.3	17.5	17.0	17.1
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.8
White (non-Hispanic)	72.4	72.6	73.3	73.1
Two or more races	2.8	2.4	2.4	2.4
% Child population in poverty	13.8	13.0	15.0	14.6

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	26,680	28,475	28,830	28,690
Children in foster care on 9/30	20,034	20,896	21,251	21,376
Children adopted	2,804	2,980	2,848	2,622

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	164,369	63.4 per 1,000	172,281	67.0 per 1,000	190,164	74.3 per 1,000	195,583	77.0 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	26,680	10.3 per 1,000	28,475	11.1 per 1,000	28,830	11.3 per 1,000	28,690	11.3 per 1,000
Child fatalities	49	1.9 per 100,000	—	— per 100,000	—	— per 100,000	—	— per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	12.4	12.4	12.3	12.3
1-5 years	27.9	27.2	28.0	28.5
6-10 years	30.6	29.7	28.4	26.9
11-15 years	24.0	25.6	26.0	27.0
16+ years	5.1	5.1	5.3	5.4
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	26,680	28,475	28,830	28,690

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7
Asian	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	39.7	38.9	35.8	34.7
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	2.2	2.9	2.9	3.2
White (non-Hispanic)	53.7	55.0	57.9	59.1
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	3.8	2.2	2.2	1.9
Number	26,680	28,475	28,830	28,690

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	7.3	7.5	5.4	4.1
Medical neglect	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.2
Neglect	68.7	66.3	69.2	70.5
Physical abuse	22.7	21.3	19.8	20.1
Sexual abuse	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.5
Unknown/missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	3.6	3.5	3.2
Number	26,680	28,475	28,830	28,690

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	17,108	16,909	21,052	20,705	10,707	12,283	10,019	9,650	7,802	8,312	9,827	8,979	20,034	20,896	21,251	21,376
Median length of stay (months)	14.5	14.4	15.3	16.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15.3	14.8	18.2	20.6	14.7	12.7	15.6	15.6

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	4.5	4.9	4.5	4.5	13.9	14.0	13.9	15.7	2.7	2.9	2.0	1.9	5.2	5.6	4.5	5.0
1 year	5.4	6.0	5.6	6.0	6.5	6.6	6.2	5.7	4.8	5.6	5.6	5.7	6.3	6.4	5.8	6.0
2 years	5.2	5.9	5.6	5.6	5.9	6.2	5.6	5.3	5.2	6.1	6.1	6.5	5.9	6.4	5.6	5.5
3 years	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.3	4.8	5.0	5.4	5.9	5.9	6.2	5.4	5.6	5.1	5.0
4 years	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.5	4.7	5.2	4.1	4.4	4.8	5.2	5.3	5.3	4.9	5.1	4.6	4.7
5 years	4.8	4.9	4.3	4.5	4.9	4.5	4.6	4.2	4.6	4.5	4.7	4.7	4.9	4.5	4.5	4.3
6 years	5.1	4.9	4.5	4.3	4.9	4.6	4.0	4.2	4.8	4.6	4.5	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.2	4.3
7 years	4.9	5.2	4.8	4.4	4.8	4.5	4.7	4.1	4.3	4.6	4.5	4.5	5.2	5.0	4.4	4.1
8 years	4.9	5.0	4.8	4.8	4.9	5.0	4.7	3.8	4.7	5.2	4.5	4.7	5.0	5.1	4.8	4.1
9 years	4.9	4.9	4.7	5.0	5.1	5.1	4.8	4.1	4.5	4.7	4.5	4.7	4.9	4.8	4.9	4.4
10 years	4.5	5.3	4.9	5.1	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.4	4.2	5.1	4.7	4.7	5.2	5.0	5.0	4.6
11 years	4.1	4.7	5.1	5.1	3.7	4.6	4.9	4.5	3.2	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.7	5.1	4.9	5.0
12 years	4.2	4.3	5.0	5.5	3.9	4.2	5.3	5.3	3.2	3.4	4.6	4.8	4.2	4.8	5.4	5.1
13 years	4.3	4.6	4.8	5.3	5.0	5.1	5.5	6.1	3.1	3.7	3.9	4.4	4.6	4.8	5.3	6.0
14 years	5.8	5.1	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.6	6.3	7.1	4.5	4.0	4.2	4.3	5.1	5.3	5.7	6.2
15 years	7.1	6.4	6.3	6.8	6.4	6.2	6.9	7.1	6.0	5.0	4.2	4.6	6.2	5.9	6.7	6.9
16 years	8.2	7.4	7.4	7.5	6.5	5.5	6.2	6.2	8.5	7.0	5.6	4.7	6.8	6.4	7.2	7.8
17 years	6.7	6.0	7.1	6.8	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.7	8.9	7.7	7.2	5.6	5.8	5.5	6.6	6.9
18 years	3.4	3.1	3.7	3.6	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.1	7.3	6.1	8.1	9.9	3.3	2.7	3.4	3.9
19 years	1.1	0.8	1.0	0.0	<.1	0.1	<.1	<.1	3.1	2.8	3.9	3.3	0.8	0.8	1.0	0.0
20 years	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	1.0	0.8	1.0	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.0
Missing data	0.7	0.3	<.1	0.0	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.7	0.4	0.0	0.2	0.1	<.1	0.0

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.0	0.0	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.2	1.4	1.0	0.0	0.0	1.4	1.3	—	0.1	1.2	1.0
Asian	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	<.1	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.1	—	<.1	0.2	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	0.0	0.0	52.7	52.3	0.0	8.7	43.9	43.5	0.0	0.0	45.0	46.5	—	5.1	52.1	50.7
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.1	—	0.0	0.1	0.2
Hispanic (of any race)	0.0	0.0	3.4	3.7	0.0	0.7	4.3	4.7	0.0	0.0	4.1	4.1	—	0.4	3.5	4.0
White (non-Hispanic)	0.0	0.0	39.3	39.4	0.0	8.3	46.3	46.3	0.0	0.0	45.4	43.8	—	4.9	39.8	40.6
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	3.1	3.1	0.0	0.6	3.2	3.6	0.0	0.0	3.4	3.8	—	0.3	3.0	3.1
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	<.1	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.3	—	<.1	0.2	0.2
Missing data	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	81.3	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	89.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	7,742	7,815	6,862	7,129
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	5,197	6,056	6,706	6,729

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	5.7	5.6	2.0	3.0
1 year	7.2	7.3	5.4	5.5
2 years	7.1	6.9	5.8	5.9
3 years	6.5	6.6	5.6	5.3
4 years	6.2	5.8	5.7	4.8
5 years	5.9	5.4	5.2	4.9
6 years	6.0	5.8	4.8	4.7
7 years	6.4	5.8	5.6	4.2
8 years	6.4	6.1	5.9	4.6
9 years	6.5	6.3	6.3	5.4
10 years	6.5	6.3	6.3	5.9
11 years	5.8	6.3	6.6	6.2
12 years	5.0	5.9	6.7	6.4
13 years	4.8	4.8	6.6	6.9
14 years	4.2	4.7	6.1	6.8
15 years	4.1	4.5	5.9	6.8
16 years	2.6	2.9	4.7	5.8
17 years	1.5	1.9	3.2	4.7
18 years	1.1	0.7	1.4	2.3
19 years	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0
20+ years	<.1	0.1	<.1	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	<.1	0.9	1.0
Asian	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	0.0	4.1	59.8	57.9
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	0.0	0.3	3.0	3.4
White (non-Hispanic)	0.0	3.8	32.9	34.4
Two or more races	0.0	0.2	3.1	2.8
Unknown	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2
Missing data	100.0	91.4	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	2,804	2,980	2,848	2,622

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	1.5	1.8	1.4	1.4
1 year	8.2	8.2	9.1	8.5
2 years	10.8	9.8	10.2	10.3
3 years	9.3	9.5	9.7	9.0
4 years	7.5	7.9	8.3	7.8
5 years	7.5	7.6	7.0	6.4
6 years	7.3	6.9	7.4	7.6
7 years	7.4	7.1	6.0	6.5
8 years	7.2	7.4	6.0	7.3
9 years	7.3	7.3	6.2	6.2
10 years	7.6	7.4	6.1	6.3
11 years	4.9	5.5	5.5	5.7
12 years	3.7	4.4	5.7	5.3
13 years	3.2	3.2	4.0	4.2
14 years	2.8	2.1	2.8	2.9
15 years	1.3	1.6	2.0	2.2
16 years	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.1
17 years	0.7	0.6	0.7	1.1
18 years	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1
19 years	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.6	0.8	0.9	0.5
Asian	0.2	0.0	0.1	<.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	49.5	48.5	43.3	46.3
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	4.1	4.3	4.2	5.0
White (non-Hispanic)	41.0	40.3	45.7	41.8
Two or more races	4.2	5.8	5.5	6.1
Unknown	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Michigan [OUTCOMES DATA]

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	96.7	96.4	92.2	93.0
Children with one or more recurrences	3.3	3.6	7.8	7.0
Number	13,482	14,171	14,334	12,705

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.33	0.34	0.25	0.38
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.67	99.66	99.75	99.62
Number	26,044	27,359	28,779	28,081

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	21.8	22.4	22.4	28.4
Guardianship	1.2	2.8	3.6	4.3
Reunification	56.2	56.7	61.0	54.8
Other	20.7	17.9	12.3	11.8
Missing data	0.2	0.1	0.8	0.8
Number	7,802	8,312	9,827	8,979

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	—	—	36.2	39.3
Guardianship	—	—	2.5	2.8
Reunification	—	—	45.0	38.5
Other	—	—	15.7	18.2
Missing data	—	—	0.7	1.1
Number	—	—	1,532	1,375

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	1.4	1.5	2.7	3.0
Guardianship	1.1	2.5	2.9	4.4
Reunification	53.6	54.5	59.8	58.7
Other	43.4	41.1	32.1	31.6
Missing data	0.5	0.4	2.4	2.3
Number	2,812	2,532	2,987	2,391

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	23.9	24.3	20.4	28.6
Children older than 12 at entry	75.5	75.5	79.6	71.2
Missing data	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.2
Number	564	485	607	664

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	—	—	14.9	33.6	—	—	5.3	0.0	—	—	20.4	27.6
Guardianship	—	—	3.0	0.9	—	—	0.0	9.1	—	—	3.5	4.2
Reunification	—	—	74.6	59.3	—	—	78.9	63.6	—	—	61.1	55.0
Other	—	—	7.5	5.3	—	—	15.8	27.3	—	—	14.1	12.6
Missing data	—	—	0.0	0.9	—	—	0.0	0.0	—	—	0.9	0.5
Number	—	—	134	113	—	—	38	11	—	—	4,427	4,173

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	—	—	0.0	30.0	—	—	23.1	31.2	—	—	23.6	28.2
Guardianship	—	—	0.0	0.0	—	—	4.0	4.4	—	—	3.6	4.4
Reunification	—	—	50.0	60.0	—	—	60.9	56.2	—	—	60.8	54.6
Other	—	—	50.0	10.0	—	—	11.5	7.9	—	—	11.1	11.7
Missing data	—	—	0.0	0.0	—	—	0.5	0.3	—	—	0.8	1.1
Number	—	—	2	10	—	—	399	365	—	—	4,465	3,933

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	—	—	29.2	13.8	—	—	35.2	36.5	21.8	22.4	0.0	<.1
Guardianship	—	—	4.2	0.0	—	—	3.0	5.5	1.2	2.8	0.0	<.1
Reunification	—	—	62.5	72.4	—	—	55.3	49.9	56.2	56.7	0.0	<.1
Other	—	—	4.2	10.3	—	—	5.9	8.1	20.7	17.9	0.0	<.1
Missing data	—	—	0.0	3.4	—	—	0.6	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	<.1
Number	—	—	24	29	—	—	338	345	7,802	8,312	0	0

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	52.9	56.6	38.8	40.6
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	28.1	28.2	39.6	36.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	7.1	8.1	13.3	13.7
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	3.0	2.2	5.2	4.7
48 or more mos.	2.2	1.5	3.1	3.9
Missing data	6.8	3.2	<.1	0.2
Number	4,383	4,713	5,994	4,920

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	90.0	90.9	90.5	93.9
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	5.0	5.0	7.7	3.1
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	4.6	3.6	1.1	2.1
Missing data	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.9
Number	10,707	12,283	10,019	9,650

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	12.6	12.8	11.3	3.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	22.4	21.7	30.3	23.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	31.0	32.0	32.6	35.9
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	16.0	18.3	15.9	19.1
48 or more mos.	17.8	14.8	9.8	17.4
Missing data	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.2
Number	1,699	1,860	2,199	2,546

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	86.2	87.8	85.3	84.5	65.8	69.6	67.2	65.0	49.7	50.3	35.5	36.2	97.2	97.3	85.4	70.2
Children with 3 or more placements	13.8	12.2	14.7	15.5	34.2	30.4	32.8	35.0	50.3	49.7	64.5	63.8	2.8	2.7	14.6	29.8
Number	11,588	13,416	11,663	10,967	6,997	6,955	8,433	8,082	8,819	8,577	10,941	11,227	432	260	41	84

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0
Institutions	5.7	4.1	2.4	2.4
Other settings	94.3	95.9	97.6	97.6
Missing data	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0
Number	7,623	8,525	6,999	6,577

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The following are Michigan's comments on the State's data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2003: Report to Congress*.

Section B (Maltreatment Information Overview): The total number of child fatalities as a result of abuse and or neglect was 46 for FY 2003. This is compared to 52 child fatalities for FY 2002.

Section C (Children in Foster Care): There were 21,251 children in foster care on September 30, 2002, compared to 20,710 on October 1, 2002, a difference of 541 children. This discrepancy was caused by several circumstances: (1) DHS has 'dropped' cases where children had been discharged on or before 9/30/02 (captured in our November 2002 submission), but the transaction was not recorded on the system until after the November submission. (2) Also, included on 9/30/02 (November 2002 submission) were children on 'trial home visits' whose cases were closed prior to 9/30/2002; however, the transaction was not recorded on the system until after the November submission. DHS programmers were not using transaction dates as criteria to determine if children should have been included in the next submission. (3) the County of Wayne (not the DHS Wayne County office) was supposed to be reporting on the delinquency population for this submission. Thus far, the County of Wayne system does not hold the episode begin date and discharge dates. When the child's file is updated, that transaction date is the recorded date (in other words, the previous dates are over written). We are attempting to address this with the County.

Outcome Measure 3.4 (Exits to Emancipation): The data for outcome measure 3.4 indicate that in FY 2003, 664 children were emancipated from foster care. However, the data in Section C, Age of children in Foster Care, indicate that 13.2 percent (1,185 children) of the children exiting foster care were age 18 and older at the time of the exit. The children exiting foster care who were 18 and older could have had outcomes other than emancipation, such as reunification, living with a relative, absent without leave (AWOL), or discharged to another agency or program such as: Dept of Corrections or Adult Services.

Outcome Measure 4.1 (Time to Reunification): The percentage of reunifications that occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care decreased from FY2000 (52.9 percent) to FY2003 (40.6 percent). The national median in FY 2003 was 71.2 percent. Data from FY 2000 were not accurate because the Foster Care part of SACWIS was not in place. Also, it appears that children coming into care now have more difficult home situations and thus will be more likely to need a living arrangement other than reunification. Finally, due to the success of our programs to prevent removal, fewer children are coming into care.

Outcome Measure 5.1 (Time to Adoption): There was a substantial decline in the percentage of adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care from FY 2002 (41.6 percent) to FY 2003 (27.3 percent). The national median for FY 2003 was 22.9 percent. This may have occurred for the following reasons: (1) The decrease in the percentage of adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care in FY 2003 may have been effected by a significant turnover in DHS agency staff caused by an early retirement for state employees. The fact that DHS was only allowed to fill one-fourth of the retiring staff slowed the rate in which adoptions could be completed. Also, new policy was issued in August 2002 which modified the eligibility criteria for Adoption Support Subsidy. These two issues coupled with an increase in court involvement in adoption cases have appeared to extend the length of time children were in foster care between entry and adoption in FY 2003.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of Michigan's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, 7.0 percent of the children in Michigan who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percent is about equal to the national median of 7.1 percent but it represents a considerable decline in performance from 2000 to 2003 (+112.1 percent change).

In 2003, the rate of child maltreatment victims was 11.3 child victims per 1,000 children in the State population, which is slightly higher than the national median of 10.6 child victims per 1,000 children in the population. The 2003 Michigan rate represents an increase over the 2000 child victim rate of 10.3 child victims per 1,000 children in the State population.

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

In 2003, 0.38 percent of the children in foster care were found to be maltreated by a foster parent or facility staff member (measure 2.1). Although this percentage is about equal to the national median of 0.39 percent, it represents a decline in performance from 2000 to 2003 (-15.2 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003, 87.5 percent of children exiting foster care (measure 3.1) were discharged to a permanent home, which is close to the national median of 86.3 percent. Similarly, 80.6 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) were discharged to a permanent home, which is about equal to the national median of 79.5 percent. However, 66.1 percent of the children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home, which is less than the national median of 72.2 percent.

In 2003, 28.6 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4). Although this percent is about equal to the national median of 29.6 percent, it represents a decline in performance from 2000 to 2003 (+19.7 percent change).

In Michigan, many children who exit foster care at age 18 or older have a discharge reason other than emancipation. In 2003, the number of children who were reported as exiting to emancipation in 2003 (664 children) was considerably less than the number of children exiting foster care in 2003 who were age 18 or older at the time of exit (1,185 children).

There were no real differences with regard to exits to permanency as a function of children's race or ethnicity (measure 3.5). (This was assessed only when a particular race or ethnicity accounted for at least 10 percent of the exits from foster care.) White (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care were as likely to be discharged to a permanent home (87.2 percent) as were Black (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care (86.8 percent). However, the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the foster care population (50.7 percent) was almost three times the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the State's child population (17.1 percent).

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, only 40.6 percent of all reunifications occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1). This percent not only is less than the national median of 72.0 percent, but also represents a performance decline from 2000 to 2003 (-23.3 percent change). Also in 2003, 8.6 percent of reunifications occurred after the child had been in foster care for at least 36 months, which exceeds the national median of 3.5 percent.

Although Michigan had a relatively low percentage of reunifications occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care, the State also had a relatively low percentage of foster care re-entries. In 2003, only 3.1 percent of the children entering foster care were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (measure 4.2). This percent not only is less than the national median of 9.5 percent, but also represents an improvement in performance on the measure from 2000 to 2003 (-38.0 percent change). In addition, only 2.1 percent of the children entering foster care were entering more than 12 months after a prior foster care episode. Consequently, only 5.2 percent of all children entering foster care in 2003 had been in foster care at a prior time, which is the lowest re-entry percentage in the nation.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2003, 27.3 percent of all finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 5.1). Although this percent exceeds the national median of 23.9 percent, it represents a decline in performance from 2000 to 2003 (-22 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, 84.5 percent of the children in foster care in Michigan for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings (measure 6.1), which is about equal to the national median of 84.2 percent. However, in 2003, 65.0 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months, experienced no more than two placement settings, which exceeds the national median of 59.1 percent.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 2.4 percent of the children entering foster care in Michigan who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage not only is less than the national median of 8.3 percent, but also represents a substantial improvement in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (-57.9 percent change).

Minnesota [CONTEXT DATA]

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	1,283,395	1,267,622	1,260,515	1,248,770
Race/Ethnicity (%)¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4
Asian	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	4.9	5.4	5.1	5.2
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.6
White (non-Hispanic)	82.0	81.7	82.4	81.9
Two or more races	2.9	2.8	2.5	2.6
% Child population in poverty	8.5	8.4	7.7	9.7

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	11,824	9,840	9,982	9,230
Children in foster care on 9/30	8,530	8,167	8,052	7,338
Children adopted	614	567	626	644

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	24,840	19.4 per 1,000	23,842	18.8 per 1,000	26,344	20.9 per 1,000	25,878	20.7 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	11,824	9.2 per 1,000	9,840	7.8 per 1,000	9,982	7.9 per 1,000	9,230	7.4 per 1,000
Child fatalities	21	1.6 per 100,000	16	1.3 per 100,000	16	1.3 per 100,000	15	1.2 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	8.4	8.6	9.0	9.0
1-5 years	30.2	28.5	32.5	32.0
6-10 years	34.1	33.9	30.5	29.9
11-15 years	22.1	23.0	23.1	24.2
16+ years	4.5	4.6	4.7	4.9
Unknown	0.8	1.4	0.2	0.0
Number	11,824	9,840	9,982	9,230

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	7.1	6.9	6.2	6.8
Asian	3.7	2.8	3.2	2.6
Black (non-Hispanic)	25.1	24.9	25.0	23.4
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	7.2	6.9	8.4	9.1
White (non-Hispanic)	48.9	49.7	49.4	48.5
Two or more races	4.9	4.9	5.8	7.6
Unknown	3.0	3.9	1.9	1.9
Number	11,824	9,840	9,982	9,230

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.8
Medical neglect	0.2	0.1	0.3	1.4
Neglect	73.6	72.1	73.1	72.8
Physical abuse	21.9	22.3	21.5	19.7
Sexual abuse	7.4	9.2	9.2	10.3
Unknown/missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	11,824	9,840	9,982	9,230

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	7,664	7,424	7,434	7,328	10,803	10,012	10,317	8,495	9,939	9,269	9,700	8,485	8,530	8,167	8,052	7,338
Median length of stay (months)	14.8	14.6	14.2	13.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.0	2.1	2.4	3.2	12.7	12.7	12.1	13.0

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	2.8	3.0	3.3	3.6	5.6	5.9	6.5	8.3	2.9	3.0	3.5	3.5	3.0	3.2	3.7	4.8
1 year	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.9	3.4	3.5	3.6	4.2	3.3	3.7	3.6	4.5	3.4	3.5	3.7	4.2
2 years	3.6	3.4	3.1	3.4	3.2	3.1	3.3	3.9	3.2	3.5	3.4	3.9	3.4	3.1	3.3	3.9
3 years	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.5	2.7	2.9	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.6	3.1	3.1	3.3	3.1
4 years	3.2	2.9	2.9	3.4	2.5	2.7	2.8	3.1	2.8	3.0	2.9	3.3	2.8	2.7	3.3	3.4
5 years	3.0	2.8	2.6	2.8	2.5	2.2	2.4	3.1	2.7	2.7	2.7	3.2	2.6	2.4	2.7	3.2
6 years	3.4	3.0	2.9	2.5	2.8	2.7	2.4	2.7	3.0	2.8	2.4	2.6	2.9	2.7	2.4	2.6
7 years	4.0	3.6	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.7	3.0	3.1	2.5	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.4	2.8	2.8	2.5
8 years	4.3	4.1	3.3	2.9	3.2	2.7	2.7	2.9	3.2	2.8	2.9	2.8	3.8	3.1	2.8	2.9
9 years	4.6	4.8	4.3	3.3	3.2	3.1	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.2	3.1	3.1	4.5	4.1	3.2	2.9
10 years	5.1	4.8	4.5	4.3	3.1	3.1	3.7	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.2	4.5	4.3	4.2	3.3
11 years	4.9	5.1	4.9	4.8	3.6	3.6	3.3	3.7	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.4	4.9	4.8	4.5	4.5
12 years	5.3	5.2	5.8	5.5	4.4	5.1	4.7	4.7	3.5	4.1	4.2	3.9	5.2	5.7	5.5	5.4
13 years	6.8	6.3	6.5	6.9	6.7	6.6	6.9	7.5	5.4	4.8	5.1	5.8	6.4	6.8	7.1	6.9
14 years	8.4	8.6	8.3	8.3	10.9	10.7	9.7	9.2	8.9	8.4	8.2	8.0	9.1	8.8	8.6	8.7
15 years	9.7	9.9	11.2	9.9	14.0	13.8	12.8	11.5	12.6	11.7	11.2	10.0	10.7	11.7	10.3	9.9
16 years	10.3	10.5	11.1	11.9	13.1	13.9	12.9	11.6	12.8	13.6	12.7	11.1	10.9	11.6	12.2	11.2
17 years	9.8	10.7	10.5	11.5	10.4	9.8	11.1	9.6	12.1	11.7	13.2	12.2	10.7	10.5	11.3	11.8
18 years	3.4	3.5	3.7	3.7	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.1	6.6	7.2	6.5	7.2	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.6
19 years	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.2	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.8
20 years	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3
Missing data	<.1	<.1	0.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.1	0.2	<.1

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	11.3	11.1	12.4	11.9	8.4	9.3	9.4	9.9	8.5	8.1	9.6	9.5	10.8	12.3	11.9	12.3
Asian	1.4	1.4	1.7	1.6	3.1	2.8	3.2	2.8	3.1	2.6	3.3	2.9	1.5	1.8	1.6	1.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	22.5	21.9	20.9	21.3	19.4	18.4	19.4	19.8	20.0	18.8	19.0	19.4	21.5	21.1	21.2	21.7
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	5.4	5.8	6.2	6.6	5.4	5.7	6.6	7.3	5.1	5.7	6.4	7.0	5.8	5.9	6.5	6.9
White (non-Hispanic)	52.0	51.7	51.8	51.1	56.8	57.3	54.6	52.6	56.9	57.7	55.3	53.8	52.5	51.8	51.2	49.8
Two or more races	6.9	7.0	6.3	6.9	4.8	4.0	4.6	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.3	5.4	6.8	5.9	6.6	6.3
Unknown	0.5	0.9	0.6	0.7	2.0	2.5	2.1	2.7	1.6	2.4	2.0	2.0	1.1	1.2	0.8	1.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	1,774	1,661	1,609	1,570
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	1,349	1,321	1,268	1,231

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	2.9	3.4	4.1	4.2
1 year	4.6	5.0	4.9	6.4
2 years	5.4	4.9	5.7	5.0
3 years	5.3	4.5	4.8	4.7
4 years	5.1	4.7	5.3	5.3
5 years	4.8	4.5	4.6	4.6
6 years	5.5	4.5	4.0	3.8
7 years	5.4	5.4	4.6	3.8
8 years	6.6	5.3	4.8	3.7
9 years	7.1	6.6	4.8	4.3
10 years	7.0	6.9	7.1	4.8
11 years	7.4	6.7	6.5	7.1
12 years	6.1	6.7	6.8	7.1
13 years	6.1	6.0	6.3	6.6
14 years	5.0	6.4	5.8	7.6
15 years	4.6	5.2	5.8	6.4
16 years	4.5	5.2	5.0	6.1
17 years	3.4	4.6	5.1	5.0
18 years	2.3	1.9	2.1	2.1
19 years	0.5	1.0	1.0	0.9
20+ years	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.5
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	8.3	8.9	9.3	8.4
Asian	0.4	0.4	0.9	0.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	31.9	31.7	34.6	31.1
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	6.2	6.6	6.7	8.8
White (non-Hispanic)	43.2	42.5	38.2	41.9
Two or more races	9.7	9.8	10.0	8.9
Unknown	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	614	567	626	644

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	1.6	1.9	3.4	3.4
1 year	7.7	10.2	9.9	14.1
2 years	9.3	10.4	12.1	13.2
3 years	9.3	9.7	8.3	9.6
4 years	6.4	10.6	8.0	8.5
5 years	8.3	6.7	7.2	7.1
6 years	8.8	6.7	6.4	6.5
7 years	6.4	7.1	7.0	6.2
8 years	8.8	7.6	8.0	6.2
9 years	8.6	5.8	5.3	4.7
10 years	6.8	6.0	4.5	5.3
11 years	7.5	7.2	5.3	4.5
12 years	3.9	4.9	6.1	4.2
13 years	3.1	2.1	3.8	2.2
14 years	2.1	1.1	2.6	1.4
15 years	1.1	0.7	1.0	1.2
16 years	0.0	0.2	1.0	0.8
17 years	0.2	0.7	0.2	0.5
18 years	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	29.0	22.4	22.2	20.7
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	4.1	7.2	8.8	8.1
White (non-Hispanic)	47.9	54.3	54.2	53.0
Two or more races	11.1	11.5	10.2	15.1
Unknown	8.0	4.6	4.6	3.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Minnesota [OUTCOMES DATA]

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	95.4	94.7	94.1	94.6
Children with one or more recurrences	4.6	5.3	5.9	5.4
Number	6,334	4,903	5,170	4,372

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.18	0.24	0.29	0.31
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.82	99.76	99.71	99.69
Number	16,382	15,306	15,701	13,856

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	5.9	6.1	6.6	7.6
Guardianship	0.7	1.0	0.9	0.7
Reunification	82.8	81.5	80.7	79.4
Other	10.5	11.3	11.9	12.2
Missing data	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0
Number	9,939	9,269	9,700	8,485

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	12.7	11.4	10.1	11.1
Guardianship	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.5
Reunification	71.6	70.8	70.3	67.8
Other	14.9	17.3	18.8	20.5
Missing data	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0
Number	2,591	2,520	3,028	2,758

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	<.1	0.2	0.2
Guardianship	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3
Reunification	85.2	83.3	82.1	81.5
Other	14.6	16.4	17.4	18.0
Missing data	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0
Number	5,597	5,122	5,270	4,287

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	21.4	20.0	26.0	30.1
Children older than 12 at entry	78.4	80.0	74.0	69.9
Missing data	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	527	520	561	607

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/American Indian				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	4.7	5.1	3.7	4.7	1.0	0.8	0.0	1.6	8.5	7.3	7.7	9.2
Guardianship	0.5	1.3	2.9	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.7	1.1	0.3	0.5
Reunification	81.3	79.4	78.3	78.1	91.7	88.2	91.0	90.6	80.3	80.2	80.0	77.6
Other	13.4	14.2	15.1	15.9	7.1	10.9	9.0	7.3	10.4	11.3	12.0	12.6
Missing data	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	<.1	0.0	0.0
Number	845	751	927	809	312	238	323	245	1,987	1,742	1,847	1,650

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.1	7.8	10.2	9.4	4.8	5.5	6.4	6.9
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.8
Reunification	0.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	83.3	79.2	78.9	82.1	84.0	82.7	80.8	79.6
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.6	12.0	9.7	7.9	10.5	10.9	12.0	12.7
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0
Number	0	3	10	1	510	524	616	593	5,655	5,351	5,365	4,564

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.6	0.9	0.0	1.2	14.1	14.1	13.0	17.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	0.6	0.5	0.0	0.6	1.3	3.4	1.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	89.4	88.2	94.4	92.3	73.1	70.2	75.2	72.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	8.7	10.5	5.6	5.9	11.5	12.3	10.8	9.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	161	220	196	169	469	440	416	454	0	0	0	0

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	84.9	87.0	89.9	88.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	8.2	7.8	7.9	8.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1.8	1.4	1.3	1.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.5
48 or more mos.	1.0	0.5	0.5	0.8
Missing data	3.4	2.8	0.0	0.0
Number	8,232	7,551	7,826	6,738

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	61.2	60.7	59.5	62.9
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	27.7	27.7	28.1	26.4
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	8.6	9.6	10.0	9.8
Missing data	2.6	2.0	2.5	0.9
Number	10,803	10,012	10,317	8,495

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	7.4	6.3	6.6	6.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	22.9	29.9	28.4	36.2
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	23.9	28.6	31.7	24.5
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	17.3	15.6	15.4	17.3
48 or more mos.	28.5	19.3	17.9	15.7
Missing data	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0
Number	585	569	637	649

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	85.4	86.2	87.5	89.1	54.4	54.4	56.7	60.3	38.9	37.5	36.9	34.9	100.0	99.6	100.0	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	14.6	13.8	12.5	10.9	45.6	45.6	43.3	39.7	61.1	62.5	63.1	65.1	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0
Number	11,762	11,170	11,742	9,994	2,484	2,292	2,254	2,218	3,896	3,718	3,722	3,581	325	256	34	30

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	4.6	4.7	4.2	3.1
Institutions	22.4	19.7	16.4	14.0
Other settings	73.0	75.6	79.4	82.9
Missing data	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	4,600	4,287	4,586	4,117

Minnesota [STATE COMMENT]

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The following are Minnesota's comments on the State's data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2003: Report to Congress*.

Minnesota has demonstrated improved performance on outcome measures of time to reunification within 12 months, re-entries into foster care within 12 months, time to adoption within 24 months, stability of placements within 12 months, and placements of young children in group homes and institutions from FY 2000 to FY 2003. Recurrence of maltreatment within six months showed improvement between FY 2002 and 2003, as did the incidence of child abuse or neglect in foster care.

Section B (Maltreatment Information Overview): The number of children who were the subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment increased between 2000 and 2003, while the number of children determined to be victims of maltreatment declined. Minnesota implemented an Alternative Response to assessing reports of child maltreatment during this same time period from 2000 to 2003. This family-centered, strengths-based approach to assessment does not result in findings of maltreatment. The trend of declining victims of maltreatment is reflective of the changes in child protection assessment practice brought about by the implementation of Alternative Response.

Section C (Children in Foster Care): Minnesota continues to work with our county partners to produce accurate and timely reports of children in foster care needed for state and federal reports. Duplicate counts of children appear to be largely the issue for the discrepancy of numbers of children in care on September 30, 2002 and October 1, 2002. A Statewide Client Index was made available in mid-2002 and fully implemented by 2003 which will assist in reducing these reporting errors in future reports.

Minnesota has realized consistent decline in the number of children entering foster care over the period from 2000 to 2003. An effort was launched as a strategy in the state's program improvement plan to reduce the placement re-entry rate and the re-entry rate did decline between 2002 and 2003. There is a statewide collaborative effort with the Minnesota Supreme Court to gain consensus in the court system on the importance of safety and permanency requirements. Alternative Response, Minnesota's family-centered, strengths-based approach to assessing reports of child maltreatment, addresses problems in families before foster care may become necessary.

Outcome Measure 3.4 (Exits to Emancipation): Youth over the age of 18 exiting foster care are most often those that have been receiving continued services. Youth age 18 or older are most often emancipated from foster care as the reason for discharge, although three-fourths of youth over the age of 18 who are not emancipated are reunified with their parents/primary caretakers. Minnesota youth who are in placement prior to age 18 may request continuing placement services to age 21. In addition, services are available to youth over age 18 with disabilities who may, along with their families, request continued placement services.

Outcome measures 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3 (Exits to Permanency): These measures reflect increases in the number of children exiting foster care to adoption for all children and for children who were over age 12 at the time they entered foster care. For all children, children with disabilities and children over age 12 at the time they entered foster care, reunification is the preferred permanency outcome, and is, in fact, the most often achieved. In Minnesota, the number of all children exiting foster care for reasons other than adoption, guardianship or reunification, includes children exiting to a permanent transfer of legal and physical custody to a relative. From 2000 to 2003, the percent of children exiting foster care to permanent transfer of legal and physical custody to a relative increased from 0 percent to 5.4 percent.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of Minnesota's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, 5.4 percent of the children who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). Although this percent is less than the national median of 7.1 percent, it represents a decline in performance on the measure from 2000 to 2003 (+17.4 percent change).

Minnesota's relatively low percentage of maltreatment recurrence in 2003 corresponds to a relatively low rate of child maltreatment victims. In 2003, the rate of child maltreatment victims in Minnesota was 7.4 child victims per 1,000 children in the State population, which is less than the national median of 10.6 child victims per 1,000 children in the population. The 2003 child victim rate represents a decrease from 2000, when the rate was 9.2 child victims per 1,000 children in the population.

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

In 2003, 0.31 percent of the children in foster care in Minnesota were found to be maltreated by a foster parent or facility staff member (measure 2.1). Although this percent is less than the national median of 0.39 percent, it represents a decline in performance from 2000 to 2003 (+72.2 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003, 87.7 percent of children exiting foster care (measure 3.1) were discharged to a permanent home, which is close to the national median of 86.3 percent. Also, 79.4 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) were discharged to a permanent home, which is about equal to the national median of 79.5 percent. In comparison, 82.0 percent of the children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home, which exceeds the national median of 72.2 percent.

With regard to ensuring that children emancipated from foster care (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) do not spend most of their formative years in foster care, in 2003, 30.1 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4). Although this percent is close to the national median of 29.6 percent, it represents a decline in performance from 2000 to 2003 (+40.7 percent change).

There were no real differences with regard to exits to permanency as a function of children's race or ethnicity (measure 3.5). (This was assessed only when a particular race or ethnicity accounted for at least 10 percent of the exits from foster care.) White (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care were as likely to be discharged to a permanent home (87.3 percent) as were Black (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care (87.3 percent) or Alaska Native/American Indian children exiting foster care (84 percent). However, the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the foster care population (21.7 percent) in 2003 was more than four times the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the State's child population (5.2 percent). The percent of Alaska Native/American Indian children in the foster care population in 2003 (12.3 percent) was more than eight times the percent of those children in the State's child population (1.4 percent).

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, 88.3 percent of all reunifications in Minnesota occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1), which exceeds the national median of 72.0 percent. In addition, only 1.3 percent of reunifications occurred after the child had been in foster care for at least 36 months, which is less than the national median of 3.5 percent.

Although Minnesota had a relatively high percentage of reunifications in 2003 that occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care, the State also had a relatively high percentage of re-entries into foster care. In 2003, 26.4 percent of the children entering foster care in Minnesota were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (measure 4.2), which is considerably larger than the national median of 9.5 percent. There was no change in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003. In addition, 9.8 percent of the children entering foster care in 2003 were entering more than 12 months after a prior foster care episode. Consequently, 36.2 percent of all children entering foster care in 2003 had been in foster care at a prior time.

The high rate of foster care re-entry may be explained by the fact that 22.5 percent of all children entering foster care in 2003 in Minnesota were age 16 and older at the time of entry. The cross-State analyses of data pertaining to re-entry found a substantial positive correlation between State foster care re-entry percentages and the percent of children entering foster care who were age 16 and older.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2003, 42.5 percent of all finalized adoptions in Minnesota occurred within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 5.1). This percent not only exceeds the national median of 23.9 percent, but also represents a substantial improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (+40.3 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, 89.1 percent of the children in foster care in Minnesota who were in care for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings (measure 6.1), which exceeds the national median of 84.2 percent. Also in 2003, 60.3 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months but less than 24 months experienced no more than two placement settings, which is about equal to the national median of 59.1 percent.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 17.1 percent of the children entering foster care who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). Although this percentage exceeds the national median of 8.3 percent, it represents a performance improvement from 2000 to 2003 (-36.7 percent change).

Mississippi [CONTEXT DATA]

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	772,753	762,951	761,589	761,268
Race/Ethnicity (%)¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Asian	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Black (non-Hispanic)	44.7	44.6	44.1	44.1
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.6
White (non-Hispanic)	51.6	51.6	52.4	52.2
Two or more races	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.9
% Child population in poverty	16.4	23.2	25.3	23.1

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	6,389	4,556	4,003	5,940
Children in foster care on 9/30	3,292	3,443	2,686	2,812
Children adopted	288	266	227	182

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	30,670	39.7 per 1,000	31,086	40.7 per 1,000	18,009	23.6 per 1,000	24,503	32.2 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	6,389	8.3 per 1,000	4,556	6.0 per 1,000	4,003	5.3 per 1,000	5,940	7.8 per 1,000
Child fatalities	12	1.5 per 100,000	5	0.7 per 100,000	7	0.9 per 100,000	13	1.7 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	6.3	6.3	8.1	8.0
1-5 years	30.5	27.2	30.2	28.9
6-10 years	31.5	25.9	30.2	30.4
11-15 years	25.5	25.5	25.7	26.8
16+ years	6.2	15.1	5.9	6.0
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	6,389	4,556	4,003	5,940

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.2
Asian	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	50.1	49.4	41.9	41.5
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	10.2	4.3	1.1	0.9
White (non-Hispanic)	49.1	49.7	38.8	39.3
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.6
Unknown	0.0	0.0	17.3	17.5
Number	6,389	4,556	4,003	5,940

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	2.0	2.4	9.7	9.3
Medical neglect	0.0	0.0	3.0	3.1
Neglect	47.0	59.8	54.0	55.0
Physical abuse	25.3	18.9	20.7	22.8
Sexual abuse	22.7	16.6	16.8	15.1
Unknown/missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	3.0	2.3	0.2	0.3
Number	6,389	4,556	4,003	5,940

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	3,013	3,041	2,614	2,681	2,005	2,094	1,582	1,658	1,726	1,692	1,510	1,527	3,292	3,443	2,686	2,812
Median length of stay (months)	18.0	15.7	16.2	17.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10.1	10.2	12.5	11.4	16.0	14.1	17.1	15.9

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	3.7	3.8	3.7	4.3	11.0	12.0	12.8	13.6	3.9	4.3	3.6	4.3	3.7	3.7	4.3	4.3
1 year	5.1	5.1	5.8	5.0	5.7	6.6	6.4	7.0	4.5	5.4	6.2	7.0	5.1	5.7	5.1	5.5
2 years	5.1	5.3	5.4	5.8	6.6	5.6	6.4	5.9	7.0	6.3	7.1	5.8	5.1	5.5	5.6	5.2
3 years	4.8	5.3	4.9	4.7	6.2	5.4	5.2	5.5	5.6	6.7	6.3	6.4	5.1	4.7	4.8	5.4
4 years	5.3	5.7	4.6	5.0	4.2	5.2	5.4	5.1	4.4	5.6	5.4	5.2	5.6	5.1	4.7	4.7
5 years	5.9	5.3	5.2	4.9	5.7	5.1	5.0	4.2	5.7	5.7	5.2	5.6	5.3	5.2	5.0	4.4
6 years	5.8	5.8	4.7	4.3	5.4	5.2	3.9	5.5	6.1	5.9	5.3	4.9	5.8	4.9	4.3	4.7
7 years	5.6	4.8	5.2	4.5	5.8	5.2	5.4	4.6	6.1	6.1	5.3	5.1	5.1	5.2	4.5	4.5
8 years	5.8	5.5	4.5	5.0	5.7	5.4	4.7	5.1	6.1	5.9	5.0	4.5	5.5	4.7	5.0	4.8
9 years	6.0	5.2	5.2	4.7	4.6	4.3	5.9	4.6	6.0	5.4	6.0	4.4	5.1	5.0	4.6	5.0
10 years	4.2	5.4	4.9	5.0	5.9	4.5	4.7	4.8	5.6	5.4	4.6	5.1	5.4	5.1	5.0	4.6
11 years	4.6	4.8	4.6	4.9	0.5	0.8	0.1	0.1	4.5	4.7	4.2	4.4	4.6	4.4	4.9	5.3
12 years	5.5	4.5	4.3	5.1	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.7	5.2	3.5	3.6	4.8	4.5	4.4	5.0	5.1
13 years	4.9	5.6	4.8	5.6	5.0	6.1	6.3	5.9	4.6	5.4	5.0	5.3	5.5	5.2	5.5	5.3
14 years	5.8	5.8	7.0	5.1	6.5	5.3	5.5	5.0	4.6	3.7	5.0	4.6	5.7	6.7	5.3	5.8
15 years	6.1	6.3	6.4	7.0	4.6	6.3	5.9	4.8	5.0	4.8	5.0	4.4	6.2	6.4	7.1	5.8
16 years	6.0	6.3	7.0	6.6	4.7	4.7	4.3	4.9	4.1	4.3	5.4	4.8	6.2	6.9	6.6	6.5
17 years	5.5	5.3	5.6	6.3	2.1	3.6	2.3	3.1	4.5	4.2	3.6	5.4	5.3	5.4	6.3	6.4
18 years	2.6	2.8	4.4	3.4	0.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	3.9	4.3	4.7	5.2	2.9	4.0	3.5	3.3
19 years	1.5	1.2	1.3	2.5	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.1	1.8	1.3	1.3	1.2	2.5	1.6
20 years	<.1	<.1	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4	0.9	1.4	1.3	0.6	0.4	0.4	1.6
Missing data	<.1	0.2	<.1	0.0	0.5	0.8	0.1	0.1	<.1	0.5	<.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	<.1	0.2

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Asian	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	<.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.2	<.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	59.4	57.7	55.6	52.9	53.9	52.0	47.9	45.2	57.3	57.2	52.6	48.3	57.1	54.5	52.7	50.9
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	0.6	0.7	0.9	1.0	0.8	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.7	0.8	1.3	1.4	0.7	1.1	0.9	1.0
White (non-Hispanic)	39.6	41.4	42.3	41.7	45.1	44.2	41.1	39.7	41.7	41.8	41.7	42.2	41.9	42.9	41.9	40.2
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.8	0.0	0.2	1.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.3	1.0	0.0	0.1	0.8	0.9
Unknown	<.1	<.1	0.3	0.5	<.1	0.7	0.8	1.0	<.1	0.2	0.5	0.3	<.1	0.3	0.4	0.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.4	2.9	0.0	1.3	7.2	11.4	0.0	0.0	3.1	6.5	0.0	0.8	2.9	5.9

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	520	510	816	832
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	255	242	220	223

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	1.3	3.1	3.4	2.6
1 year	2.3	2.9	4.8	5.0
2 years	4.0	3.7	6.0	5.6
3 years	4.6	2.5	5.0	7.0
4 years	5.2	4.9	5.4	4.3
5 years	6.7	4.5	6.0	4.9
6 years	5.6	6.1	5.6	5.8
7 years	6.0	5.5	6.5	5.8
8 years	6.0	5.9	6.9	6.1
9 years	7.7	7.1	5.8	5.9
10 years	6.0	5.5	6.6	6.1
11 years	5.0	5.3	6.9	7.0
12 years	4.8	5.9	6.4	6.9
13 years	6.7	4.7	6.7	6.4
14 years	6.0	7.1	4.4	6.0
15 years	6.3	6.5	5.9	4.9
16 years	5.0	7.1	3.3	5.2
17 years	5.6	5.1	2.8	2.8
18 years	2.9	3.9	0.6	1.2
19 years	1.9	2.2	0.6	0.2
20+ years	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.2
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Asian	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	68.8	62.2	54.5	52.8
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	0.0	0.2	0.4	1.0
White (non-Hispanic)	31.0	37.5	42.6	42.1
Two or more races	0.0	0.2	1.1	1.0
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.6	2.4

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	288	266	227	182

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
1 year	5.2	4.9	4.8	4.9
2 years	5.9	9.0	11.0	7.1
3 years	8.7	9.4	6.6	8.2
4 years	4.9	7.9	7.0	8.8
5 years	8.7	10.5	7.9	9.9
6 years	10.4	6.8	7.9	6.0
7 years	9.0	9.0	7.9	8.2
8 years	9.0	4.1	5.7	7.1
9 years	8.3	8.6	5.3	5.5
10 years	5.9	7.9	5.7	4.9
11 years	5.6	7.5	5.3	4.4
12 years	4.5	1.5	4.0	6.0
13 years	4.5	5.3	5.3	7.1
14 years	2.4	2.3	4.0	4.9
15 years	1.4	2.6	5.7	2.7
16 years	1.4	1.1	4.4	1.1
17 years	2.4	0.8	1.3	2.2
18 years	0.3	0.8	0.0	0.5
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.0	0.4	0.9	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	55.2	63.2	50.7	45.1
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	0.3	0.0	1.8	1.1
White (non-Hispanic)	44.4	36.5	46.3	51.1
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.4	2.2
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Mississippi [OUTCOMES DATA]

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	—	—	95.4	95.7
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	4.6	4.3
Number	—	—	2,065	2,604

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	0.59	0.40
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	99.41	99.60
Number	—	—	3,887	3,964

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	16.3	14.8	15.5	12.7
Guardianship	3.4	2.5	1.5	1.3
Reunification	73.2	77.0	63.4	55.2
Other	5.4	4.4	7.1	6.9
Missing data	1.7	1.2	12.5	23.8
Number	1,726	1,692	1,510	1,527

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	24.5	20.0	17.8	12.7
Guardianship	7.4	7.7	1.8	2.4
Reunification	53.7	59.4	64.0	53.0
Other	13.3	11.6	12.0	14.3
Missing data	1.1	1.3	4.4	17.5
Number	188	155	225	251

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	1.6	0.3	1.8	0.6
Guardianship	3.6	2.8	2.1	0.9
Reunification	77.0	82.4	63.0	54.6
Other	15.6	13.4	21.7	17.9
Missing data	2.2	1.1	11.4	26.0
Number	365	352	332	346

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	35.5	37.1	31.5	33.8
Children older than 12 at entry	64.5	61.3	68.5	66.2
Missing data	0.0	1.6	0.0	0.0
Number	62	62	89	68

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/American Indian				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	15.9	16.5	14.6	12.5
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.4	1.9	0.9	0.8
Reunification	0.0	0.0	100.0	50.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	73.3	76.1	64.2	55.6
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.9	4.3	9.4	7.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.5	1.1	10.8	23.9
Number	0	0	1	2	4	1	2	0	989	967	794	737

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.3	0.0	20.0	9.5	17.2	12.6	17.6	14.7
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.1	5.0	0.0	3.3	3.4	2.2	2.2
Reunification	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	83.3	85.7	65.0	66.7	72.6	78.2	62.5	53.6
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.3	7.1	0.0	0.0	4.9	4.5	4.8	7.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	100.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	23.8	1.9	1.3	12.9	21.7
Number	0	0	4	2	12	14	20	21	720	707	630	645

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	26.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.1	0.0
Reunification	100.0	66.7	85.7	40.0	0.0	0.0	80.0	33.3	0.0	0.0	63.8	0.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.7	0.0	0.0	4.3	0.0
Missing data	0.0	33.3	14.3	40.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	0.0	0.0	29.8	0.0
Number	1	3	7	5	0	0	5	15	0	0	47	100

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	67.7	69.0	56.8	64.2
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	19.6	17.3	29.5	21.5
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	6.4	7.1	6.4	8.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	2.3	3.1	3.0	2.3
48 or more mos.	4.0	2.8	4.3	3.9
Missing data	<.1	0.8	0.0	0.0
Number	1,263	1,303	958	843

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	98.0	98.6	94.8	91.9
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	0.9	1.0	4.6	6.3
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	0.6	0.3	0.4	1.9
Missing data	0.4	<.1	0.1	0.0
Number	2,005	2,094	1,582	1,658

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	6.0	2.0	2.6	0.0
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	11.7	14.4	16.2	12.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	20.2	24.4	23.5	24.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	22.7	23.2	21.4	18.6
48 or more mos.	39.4	35.2	36.3	44.3
Missing data	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0
Number	282	250	234	194

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	93.2	85.3	55.3	59.2	80.1	82.9	47.4	53.4	57.5	57.8	28.1	31.9	100.0	95.2	71.4	42.9
Children with 3 or more placements	6.5	7.5	9.7	9.4	19.5	16.9	28.4	27.6	41.9	41.9	56.9	55.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	2,297	2,465	1,831	1,935	945	1,060	944	924	1,769	1,589	1,414	1,466	7	21	7	14

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	17.4	24.2	25.5	22.8
Institutions	1.8	2.5	0.0	0.2
Other settings	80.7	73.2	74.5	77.0
Missing data	<.1	0.2	0.0	0.0
Number	1,474	1,332	770	833

Mississippi [STATE COMMENT]

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of Mississippi's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, 4.3 percent of the children in Mississippi who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percent not only is less than the national median of 7.1 percent, but also represents an improvement in performance on the measure from 2002 to 2003 (-6.5 percent change). No data were available for this measure in 2000 or 2001.

Mississippi's data regarding child maltreatment victims indicate a high level of variation from 2000 to 2003. In 2003, the child maltreatment victim rate was 7.8 child victims per 1,000 children in the State population, which is less than the national median of 10.6 child victims per 1,000 children in the population. This 2003 rate represents a considerable increase from the rate in 2002 (5.3 child victims per 1,000 children in the population), but is about equal to the rate in 2000 (8.3 child victims per 1,000 children in the population).

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

In 2003, 0.40 percent of the children in foster care in Mississippi were found to be maltreated by a foster parent or facility staff member (measure 2.1). Although this percentage is about equal to the national median of 0.39 percent, it represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (-32.2 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

Mississippi's performance with regard to outcome 3 cannot be assessed because almost 24 percent of the children exiting foster care in 2003 did not have reason for discharge information. Therefore, it is not possible to determine exits to permanency or exits to emancipation for any of the measures..

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

Mississippi's performance with regard to achieving outcome 4 cannot be assessed for timeliness of reunification (measure 4.1) because almost 24 percent of the children exiting foster care in 2003 did not have reason for discharge information. Therefore, it is not possible to determine exits from foster care that involved discharges to reunification.

Mississippi's performance with regard to re-entries of children into foster care also is difficult to assess because the extensive range in the data over time suggests data quality issues. In 2003, 6.3 percent of the children entering foster care were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode, which is less than the national median of 9.5 percent (measure 4.2).

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

Mississippi's performance with regard to outcome measure 5.1 cannot be assessed because almost 24 percent of the children exiting foster care in 2003 did not have reason for discharge information. Therefore, it is not possible to determine the number of exits from foster care to a finalized adoption.

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

Mississippi's performance with regard to outcome measure 6.1 cannot be assessed because of missing information regarding the number of placements children experience.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 23 percent of the children entering foster care in Mississippi who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percent not only exceeds the national median of 8.3 percent, but also represents a decline in performance from 2000 to 2003 (+19.8 percent change).

Missouri [CONTEXT DATA]

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	1,424,086	1,406,492	1,408,071	1,407,342
Race/Ethnicity (%) ¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Asian	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	14.3	14.5	14.0	14.0
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	3.0	3.0	2.9	3.0
White (non-Hispanic)	78.9	78.8	79.6	79.3
Two or more races	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.1
% Child population in poverty	10.6	12.9	15.3	14.7

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	7,658	9,237	9,810	10,183
Children in foster care on 9/30	13,181	13,394	13,029	11,900
Children adopted	1,265	1,101	1,542	1,403

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	74,412	52.2 per 1,000	80,743	57.4 per 1,000	80,653	57.3 per 1,000	84,383	60.0 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	7,658	5.4 per 1,000	9,237	6.6 per 1,000	9,810	7.0 per 1,000	10,183	7.2 per 1,000
Child fatalities	48	3.4 per 100,000	33	2.3 per 100,000	52	3.7 per 100,000	45	3.2 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	6.4	5.2	6.2	6.3
1-5 years	27.9	29.4	30.1	30.3
6-10 years	30.4	29.6	29.2	27.1
11-15 years	29.1	30.0	28.7	30.5
16+ years	5.5	5.7	5.6	5.6
Unknown	0.7	0.0	0.2	0.1
Number	7,658	9,237	9,810	10,183

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.3
Asian	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	22.5	20.6	18.7	18.8
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	1.8	2.0	2.3	2.2
White (non-Hispanic)	74.2	75.6	77.0	76.6
Two or more races	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Unknown	0.7	1.0	1.4	1.7
Number	7,658	9,237	9,810	10,183

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	4.0	7.7	6.3	6.1
Medical neglect	2.7	3.0	3.4	3.2
Neglect	45.2	51.5	48.8	50.4
Physical abuse	27.4	27.3	28.2	27.9
Sexual abuse	28.3	24.5	28.7	27.9
Unknown/missing data	2.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	2.6	3.5	2.7	2.6
Number	7,658	9,237	9,810	10,183

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	11,474	11,705	12,232	12,118	7,216	7,392	7,139	6,342	5,509	5,703	6,342	6,560	13,181	13,394	13,029	11,900
Median length of stay (months)	19.3	17.0	16.9	16.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12.2	12.8	14.3	15.4	17.0	15.5	15.9	16.8

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	3.9	4.1	4.1	4.2	12.7	12.7	13.7	14.5	4.0	4.2	4.1	3.7	4.1	4.3	4.4	4.7
1 year	4.6	4.8	5.1	5.2	5.5	6.2	6.1	6.2	5.6	6.2	5.5	6.4	4.9	5.1	5.3	5.3
2 years	4.4	4.7	4.7	5.1	5.2	5.5	5.4	6.2	5.2	6.0	6.0	6.1	4.7	4.8	5.1	5.1
3 years	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.7	5.0	5.6	5.0	5.1	5.0	5.8	5.9	4.5	4.5	4.7	5.0
4 years	4.2	4.1	4.2	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.8	4.9	4.6	5.2	5.1	5.4	4.1	4.3	4.5	4.2
5 years	4.6	4.1	4.0	3.9	5.0	4.8	4.1	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.8	4.8	4.2	4.0	3.9	4.2
6 years	5.2	4.6	4.2	3.9	5.1	4.7	4.4	4.2	5.3	4.6	4.4	4.5	4.8	4.3	3.9	3.9
7 years	5.3	4.8	4.7	4.1	4.8	5.0	4.5	4.2	5.5	4.9	5.1	4.0	4.9	4.6	4.2	3.7
8 years	5.4	4.9	4.9	4.6	4.6	4.8	4.7	4.3	4.8	4.7	4.8	4.6	5.1	4.9	4.5	4.1
9 years	5.3	5.2	5.0	4.6	4.8	4.8	4.6	4.4	4.9	5.0	5.3	4.8	5.2	5.0	4.7	4.3
10 years	5.3	5.1	5.2	4.9	4.8	4.8	5.1	4.6	4.7	4.5	4.4	4.2	5.2	5.2	5.0	4.6
11 years	5.0	5.4	5.3	5.2	4.6	5.2	5.0	4.9	4.3	4.6	4.8	5.2	5.4	5.3	5.2	4.7
12 years	5.4	5.2	5.8	5.5	5.8	5.3	5.3	5.4	4.7	4.1	4.8	4.4	5.2	5.7	5.5	5.6
13 years	6.1	5.9	5.8	6.2	6.1	5.9	6.1	6.2	4.9	4.5	4.7	5.1	5.9	5.8	6.2	5.9
14 years	6.6	6.9	6.7	6.6	7.9	6.7	6.7	6.3	5.9	5.5	5.4	5.0	6.9	6.6	6.4	7.1
15 years	7.3	7.7	7.6	7.5	7.0	7.4	7.1	7.1	6.2	6.6	6.0	5.7	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.2
16 years	7.3	7.3	7.6	7.7	5.8	5.6	5.4	5.1	7.0	6.3	6.1	6.3	7.1	7.7	7.7	7.7
17 years	5.3	5.4	5.2	6.1	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.4	5.6	5.8	5.4	5.7	5.3	5.3	5.9	6.1
18 years	2.4	3.1	3.0	2.9	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.3	2.9	3.0	2.9	3.6
19 years	1.2	1.3	1.6	1.7	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	1.3	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.3	1.6	1.7	1.8
20 years	0.7	0.7	0.7	1.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	1.1	1.5	1.8	2.3	0.7	0.7	1.0	1.2
Missing data	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.6	0.4	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3
Asian	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	43.6	41.1	37.0	34.4	31.3	27.7	26.9	24.9	32.4	32.6	29.2	25.6	41.6	37.3	35.2	34.2
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	1.1	1.2	1.5	1.6	1.8	2.1	2.0	2.4	1.9	1.7	2.1	2.0	1.2	1.5	1.5	1.9
White (non-Hispanic)	54.5	56.8	60.3	62.4	65.3	68.2	68.8	70.5	64.3	64.0	66.7	70.4	56.4	60.0	61.8	62.3
Two or more races	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.1	<.1	0.1	<.1	0.3	<.1	<.1	0.1	0.2	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.2
Unknown	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.7	0.5	1.1	1.4	1.2	0.4	0.7	1.2	0.9	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.8
Missing data	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	3,130	3,015	2,870	3,385
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	1,524	1,603	1,620	1,684

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	1.7	2.4	3.0	4.0
1 year	4.6	4.9	5.5	6.8
2 years	6.0	5.2	5.5	6.0
3 years	5.5	5.2	4.5	6.8
4 years	5.3	5.7	4.8	5.4
5 years	5.4	4.3	4.4	5.0
6 years	6.6	5.2	4.1	4.9
7 years	6.8	6.0	5.2	4.6
8 years	6.8	6.3	5.8	5.2
9 years	6.9	6.7	6.0	5.9
10 years	6.8	7.0	6.7	6.0
11 years	7.4	7.1	7.1	6.1
12 years	6.8	8.0	7.7	6.9
13 years	7.5	7.0	7.7	7.1
14 years	6.0	7.3	7.2	7.2
15 years	4.2	5.8	7.3	5.9
16 years	2.9	3.3	4.5	3.5
17 years	1.9	1.8	2.2	1.9
18 years	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.6
19 years	0.3	<.1	0.2	0.3
20+ years	0.2	<.1	<.1	<.1
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2
Asian	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	47.3	45.2	43.1	38.3
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	1.1	1.3	1.3	2.2
White (non-Hispanic)	50.7	52.5	54.2	57.9
Two or more races	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.3
Unknown	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	1,265	1,101	1,542	1,403

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	2.3	2.5	3.2	2.6
1 year	9.5	9.8	9.3	10.3
2 years	9.4	12.2	10.5	11.3
3 years	7.7	9.0	8.5	8.1
4 years	7.4	8.9	8.6	7.7
5 years	8.1	6.6	6.2	6.0
6 years	7.1	6.4	6.4	5.7
7 years	9.6	6.7	6.5	6.0
8 years	5.8	6.5	6.9	5.3
9 years	6.6	6.4	6.2	6.7
10 years	6.0	5.5	5.7	4.7
11 years	4.6	4.2	5.3	6.2
12 years	4.5	3.2	4.8	5.3
13 years	3.6	3.6	4.2	4.5
14 years	3.2	2.3	2.9	3.3
15 years	1.4	2.6	1.7	2.8
16 years	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.8
17 years	1.4	1.5	1.0	1.4
18 years	<.1	0.3	0.5	0.3
19 years	0.0	0.2	<.1	<.1
20+ years	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.4
Asian	0.2	0.0	<.1	0.6
Black (non-Hispanic)	39.3	39.0	36.6	31.1
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	1.1	2.0	2.5	2.3
White (non-Hispanic)	58.3	58.6	59.8	64.9
Two or more races	0.3	0.0	0.1	<.1
Unknown	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	94.1	89.7	92.1	91.7
Children with one or more recurrences	5.9	10.3	7.9	8.3
Number	3,436	4,128	4,588	4,268

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.52	0.60	0.68	0.38
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.48	99.40	99.32	99.62
Number	17,316	17,624	17,737	16,870

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	19.6	18.9	23.7	20.7
Guardianship	5.0	7.0	13.3	10.8
Reunification	61.1	59.6	55.5	60.3
Other	14.3	14.5	7.4	8.2
Missing data	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Number	5,509	5,703	6,342	6,560

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	22.0	20.6	24.4	20.6
Guardianship	5.7	6.9	11.7	8.7
Reunification	51.0	51.5	49.1	56.1
Other	21.3	20.9	14.8	14.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1
Number	1,308	1,318	1,390	1,395

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	1.4	2.5	2.8	2.6
Guardianship	3.2	5.0	10.2	5.4
Reunification	66.2	63.9	67.1	70.0
Other	29.3	28.5	19.9	21.9
Missing data	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.1
Number	1,521	1,545	1,631	1,671

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	46.5	50.3	30.2	30.0
Children older than 12 at entry	53.5	49.7	69.8	70.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	600	676	275	337

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/American Indian				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	35.7	9.5	26.3	15.6	5.7	0.0	8.3	39.1	23.0	22.5	29.9	25.2
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	5.3	6.3	0.0	0.0	12.5	4.3	4.8	9.4	18.3	15.0
Reunification	50.0	76.2	68.4	68.8	85.7	85.7	58.3	47.8	58.0	51.5	44.2	48.7
Other	14.3	14.3	0.0	9.4	8.6	14.3	20.8	8.7	14.2	16.6	7.7	11.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1
Number	14	21	19	32	35	28	24	23	1,784	1,860	1,850	1,682

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.7	22.2	28.4	22.9	18.2	17.3	21.2	19.1
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	2.0	8.2	4.6	5.3	6.0	11.3	9.6
Reunification	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	75.5	57.6	58.2	64.1	61.9	63.3	60.0	64.3
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.8	18.2	5.2	8.4	14.6	13.4	7.4	7.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Number	0	0	1	3	102	99	134	131	3,540	3,652	4,232	4,617

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	17.4	7.9	8.0	15.0	50.0	0.0	28.6	8.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	0.0	2.6	13.3	5.0	0.0	0.0	28.6	16.7	11.1	0.0	0.0	<.1
Reunification	78.3	73.7	73.3	60.0	50.0	100.0	42.9	75.0	88.9	100.0	0.0	<.1
Other	4.3	15.8	5.3	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	23	38	75	60	2	2	7	12	9	3	0	0

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	68.0	65.6	66.6	59.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	16.4	20.7	19.4	24.1
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	7.0	5.3	6.0	8.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	3.1	3.0	2.7	2.9
48 or more mos.	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.4
Missing data	1.0	0.9	1.1	1.1
Number	3,367	3,400	3,519	3,954

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	78.1	77.9	74.9	74.2
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	8.8	8.5	8.6	8.9
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	10.9	11.0	9.2	10.0
Missing data	2.2	2.5	7.2	6.8
Number	7,216	7,392	7,139	6,342

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	5.5	7.3	6.7	7.2
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	19.1	21.6	23.4	25.8
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	25.4	27.6	25.4	31.8
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	18.6	17.8	18.3	18.3
48 or more mos.	31.2	25.7	25.3	16.6
Missing data	0.2	<.1	0.8	0.3
Number	1,078	1,076	1,505	1,358

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	79.1	77.1	78.8	78.6	53.6	51.7	53.1	51.8	32.7	29.0	28.7	26.2	100.0	95.8	94.4	98.6
Children with 3 or more placements	20.9	22.9	21.2	21.4	46.4	48.3	46.9	48.2	67.3	71.0	71.3	73.8	0.0	4.2	5.6	1.4
Number	8,020	8,310	8,064	7,399	3,630	4,199	4,430	4,422	7,004	6,540	6,806	6,566	36	48	71	73

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.2
Institutions	9.3	8.6	6.4	5.6
Other settings	88.9	89.6	92.0	93.2
Missing data	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0
Number	5,051	5,169	3,454	2,986

Frederic M. Simmens, Director
Children's Division
Missouri Department of Social Services

The following are Missouri's comments on the State's data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2003: Report to Congress*.

Missouri continues to be dedicated to providing the most accurate data possible through our NCANDS and AFCARS transmissions. We persist in our efforts to enhance our data systems to more thoroughly detail our compliance with the mandates of ASFA and to better serve our families.

Missouri has seen an increase in the percentage of children adopted within 24 months of entering foster care. Additionally, we have fewer youth exiting to emancipation that entered care prior to the age of twelve. Also we have made great strides in reducing the numbers of young children in institutional settings.

Section B (Maltreatment Information Overview): Section B indicated a substantial increase in the number of children who were the subject of an investigated child maltreatment report, and the number and rate of child maltreatment victims from FY2000 to FY2003. This likely resulted from a combination of factors including heightened public awareness, an increase in the number of reports being made, a State audit resulting in a review of the hotline call center's processes, and enhanced training for hotline call center staff, out of reaction to a high profile case.

Section C (Children in Foster Care): The data in Section C indicate that Missouri had significantly fewer children in care on 10/1/02 than on 9/30/02. This difference is due to untimely data entry for a number of children who exited foster care. We are committed to increasing our ability to more accurately report on exits in a timely manner.

Section D (Children Waiting to be Adopted): The seeming discrepancy in Section D, between the number of children awaiting adoption and the number of children having a termination of parental rights, is reflective of the practice in many Missouri courts to delay termination of parental rights until an adoptive home has been found for a specific child or sibling group. Often these courts terminate parental rights and finalize adoptions in the same court proceeding.

Outcome measure 3.4 (Exits to Emancipation): Regarding outcome measure 3.4, some youth age eighteen and older exit our custody for reasons other than emancipation. Instances would include children who are reunified, adopted, or live with relatives. Sadly, some also enter the adult correctional system.

Missouri is aggressively working to improve the rates of timely reunification and placement stability for children in our care. Specific strategies to address both of these issues are included in our Program Improvement Plan. Our increased performance in these areas will undoubtedly improve the lives of the children we serve.

Missouri is committed to providing timely and accurate data to ACF. We continue to believe our data would be more accurate if we were permitted to update past AFCARS and NCANDS submissions with every new transmission.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of Missouri's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, 8.3 percent of the children in Missouri who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percent not only exceeds the national median of 7.1 percent, but also represents a decline in performance on the measure from 2000 to 2003 (-40.7 percent change).

The increase from 2000 to 2003 in the percentage of children experiencing maltreatment recurrence corresponds to an increase from 2000 to 2003 in the State's child maltreatment victim rate. In 2003, the rate of child maltreatment victims was 7.2 child victims per 1,000 children in the State population, which is higher than the national median of 10.6 child victims per 1,000 children in the population. In comparison, in 2000, the child victim rate in Missouri was 5.4 children per 1,000 children in the State population.

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

In 2003, 0.37 percent of the children in foster care in Missouri were found to be maltreated by a foster parent or facility staff member (measure 2.1). This percent not only is less than the national median of 0.39 percent, but also represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (-28.8 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003, 91.8 percent of all children exiting foster care in Missouri (measure 3.1) were discharged to a permanent home, which exceeds the national median of 86.3 percent. Also, 85.4 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) were discharged to a permanent home, which exceeds the national median of 79.5 percent. Furthermore, 78.0 percent of the children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home, which exceeds the national median of 72.2 percent.

With regard to ensuring that children emancipated from foster care (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) did not spend most of their formative years in foster care, in 2003, 30.0 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4). Although this percent is about equal to the national median of 29.6 percent, it represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (-35.5 percent change).

There appear to be a number of children who are 18 and older when they exit foster care but whose discharge reason is other than emancipation. For example, in 2003, 531 children exiting foster care were age 18 or older. However, only 337 children were reported to have emancipated from foster care in 2003.

There was only a slight difference with regard to exits to permanency as a function of children's race (measure 3.5). (This was assessed only when a particular race or ethnicity accounted for at least 10 percent of the exits from foster care.) White (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care were slightly more likely to be discharged to a permanent home (93.0 percent) than were Black (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care (88.9 percent). However, the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the foster care population (34.2 percent) exceeded the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the State's child population (14.0 percent).

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, only 59.5 percent of all reunifications in Missouri occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1). This percent not only is less than the national median of 72.0 percent, but also represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (-12.5 percent change). In addition, 7.3 percent of reunifications occurred after the child had been in foster care for at least 36 months, which is almost twice the national median of 3.5 percent.

Although Missouri had a relatively low percentage of reunifications in 2003 that occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care, the State also had a relatively low percentage of re-entries into foster care within 12 months of a prior episode. In 2003, 8.9 percent of the children entering foster care in Missouri were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (measure 4.2), which is less than the national median of 9.5 percent. There was no change in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003. However, 10.0 percent of the children entering foster care in 2003 were entering more than 12 months after a prior foster care episode. Consequently 18.9 percent of all children entering foster care in 2003 had been in foster care at a prior time.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2003, 33.0 percent of all finalized adoptions in Missouri occurred within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 5.1). This percent not only exceeds the national median of 23.9 percent, but also represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (+34.1 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, 78.6 percent of the children in foster care in Missouri for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings (measure 6.1), which is less than the national median of 84.2 percent. Also in 2003, 51.8 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months, experienced no more than two placement settings, which is less than the national median of 59.1 percent. There was a decline in placement stability in 2003 of 26.8 percentage points for children in foster care for 12 to 24 months compared to children in foster care for less than 12 months.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 6.8 percent of the children entering foster care in Missouri who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percent not only is less than the national median of 8.3 percent, but also represents a performance improvement from 2000 to 2003 (-22.5 percent change).

Montana [CONTEXT DATA]

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	228,309	220,207	218,777	215,774
Race/Ethnicity (%)¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	9.2	9.4	9.1	9.3
Asian	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.6
Black (non-Hispanic)	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	3.2	3.2	3.0	3.1
White (non-Hispanic)	83.9	83.8	84.5	84.3
Two or more races	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.3
% Child population in poverty	24.7	16.4	18.5	20.2

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	2,431	1,935	1,995	1,951
Children in foster care on 9/30	2,180	2,008	1,912	1,866
Children adopted	238	275	247	224

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	15,788	69.2 per 1,000	15,032	68.3 per 1,000	17,078	78.1 per 1,000	14,966	69.4 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	2,431	10.6 per 1,000	1,935	8.8 per 1,000	1,995	9.1 per 1,000	1,951	9.0 per 1,000
Child fatalities	1	0.4 per 100,000	4	1.8 per 100,000	4	1.8 per 100,000	3	1.4 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	8.8	9.4	9.0	9.7
1-5 years	29.1	32.7	33.0	35.0
6-10 years	31.5	28.0	24.9	24.1
11-15 years	24.1	23.0	24.0	22.1
16+ years	3.4	3.7	4.8	3.7
Unknown	3.2	3.2	4.3	5.4
Number	2,431	1,935	1,995	1,951

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	25.4	21.4	21.8	21.4
Asian	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	1.1	0.7	1.3	0.8
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	2.6	2.4	3.5	2.9
White (non-Hispanic)	52.3	55.1	52.6	52.5
Two or more races	0.0	1.9	2.5	3.0
Unknown	18.4	18.4	18.1	19.3
Number	2,431	1,935	1,995	1,951

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	16.0	15.4	0.6	15.5
Medical neglect	2.7	2.0	1.7	1.6
Neglect	43.4	37.3	34.5	38.7
Physical abuse	44.8	53.2	67.6	59.1
Sexual abuse	14.8	14.9	10.3	8.7
Unknown/missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.4	1.1	11.2	0.3
Number	2,431	1,935	1,995	1,951

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	1,918	1,999	1,886	1,777	1,588	1,506	1,306	1,175	1,327	1,497	1,280	1,087	2,180	2,008	1,912	1,866
Median length of stay (months)	15.9	17.0	17.5	17.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.1	6.3	7.6	10.1	16.0	16.2	16.5	16.2

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	4.7	4.5	4.0	4.6	13.7	13.0	14.2	13.9	7.0	6.7	5.2	4.9	4.7	4.1	4.8	4.7
1 year	5.8	5.0	5.4	6.0	6.7	7.2	8.7	8.3	7.2	6.9	6.7	7.2	5.3	5.6	6.2	6.8
2 years	5.6	6.0	5.7	5.8	7.5	6.6	8.0	8.4	7.3	6.1	8.2	7.5	6.1	5.8	6.0	6.8
3 years	4.7	5.3	4.7	5.5	5.4	6.0	7.4	6.6	6.7	6.9	6.6	7.2	5.2	4.8	5.6	5.9
4 years	4.6	4.7	4.9	5.5	4.7	5.2	5.7	5.4	4.4	5.5	5.8	6.2	4.6	4.8	5.5	5.3
5 years	4.1	4.9	4.8	4.4	4.7	5.2	5.1	5.9	4.8	5.3	5.5	5.2	4.8	4.9	4.4	4.6
6 years	4.7	4.5	4.9	4.6	5.5	5.4	4.1	3.9	4.2	4.7	5.0	6.6	4.3	4.9	4.8	3.9
7 years	5.7	5.7	4.5	4.7	5.1	4.7	4.1	4.3	4.6	5.9	4.5	4.7	5.8	4.3	4.6	3.9
8 years	6.3	6.0	5.8	3.9	4.7	5.6	3.4	4.3	5.5	4.7	5.2	3.8	5.7	5.6	3.8	4.1
9 years	5.2	5.8	5.8	5.0	4.7	5.2	5.0	4.6	4.7	5.6	5.0	4.9	5.4	5.9	4.8	4.3
10 years	5.7	5.5	5.2	6.5	5.7	4.4	5.2	5.3	5.0	4.5	5.0	4.3	5.4	5.2	6.4	5.5
11 years	5.7	5.9	6.3	5.1	4.3	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.8	4.3	5.7	6.3	4.8	6.4
12 years	5.6	6.4	6.4	6.5	4.9	4.5	4.7	4.4	3.7	4.2	4.8	3.9	6.0	6.0	6.1	5.3
13 years	6.0	5.7	6.6	5.7	4.5	5.2	4.3	4.9	5.2	3.8	5.0	5.2	5.5	6.5	5.9	6.3
14 years	6.2	5.6	6.3	6.6	5.2	5.2	5.0	5.2	5.2	4.7	4.9	5.0	6.0	6.5	6.6	6.1
15 years	6.1	5.7	6.2	6.3	4.8	5.0	4.7	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.5	5.7	5.9	6.2	6.3
16 years	6.6	5.8	5.9	5.6	4.5	4.4	3.6	3.6	4.0	4.2	3.8	4.1	6.3	5.7	5.6	6.0
17 years	5.4	5.7	5.2	6.2	3.0	2.1	2.2	1.7	5.5	4.9	3.8	5.8	5.6	5.3	6.0	5.5
18 years	0.9	1.5	1.4	1.4	0.4	0.2	<.1	0.0	5.0	5.0	4.5	4.0	1.6	1.6	1.7	2.0
19 years	0.1	0.3	<.1	0.2	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.3
20 years	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	29.5	32.7	32.8	31.6	32.4	30.3	27.9	29.8	27.5	30.6	27.4	26.6	32.8	32.5	33.1	33.4
Asian	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.4	<.1	0.2	0.0	0.6	0.1	<.1	<.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	1.6	1.7	1.1	1.6	1.3	1.1	1.8	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.5	1.7	1.4	1.1	1.4	1.3
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	3.3	4.2	4.1	5.0	4.3	3.9	6.0	5.2	3.6	4.3	4.7	4.0	3.9	3.9	5.1	5.7
White (non-Hispanic)	61.9	58.3	58.6	57.4	55.7	55.7	52.1	52.4	61.0	56.8	57.9	60.5	58.0	57.5	54.7	52.4
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.5	1.3	0.0	0.7	3.8	4.4	0.0	0.2	2.3	2.7	0.0	0.3	1.6	2.5
Unknown	3.3	3.0	2.6	2.9	5.9	8.2	8.0	6.6	5.7	6.2	6.2	4.3	3.8	4.5	3.9	4.4
Missing data	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	850	748	687	655
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	712	624	578	561

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	3.4	1.6	2.2	1.2
1 year	5.5	4.8	4.2	4.4
2 years	5.1	4.1	5.8	6.4
3 years	4.6	5.7	4.2	6.1
4 years	4.6	5.6	5.1	4.9
5 years	5.1	4.1	4.1	4.7
6 years	3.9	5.3	4.8	4.1
7 years	5.6	4.0	4.9	3.2
8 years	7.4	7.2	4.5	4.6
9 years	6.7	6.4	5.1	3.7
10 years	5.8	7.0	8.0	5.3
11 years	5.8	6.8	6.3	8.2
12 years	6.6	6.7	7.0	6.7
13 years	6.1	6.6	6.4	8.2
14 years	6.0	5.9	6.4	6.4
15 years	6.5	6.3	6.3	7.5
16 years	5.3	6.4	6.3	6.4
17 years	4.7	4.1	5.8	5.3
18 years	1.3	1.2	2.3	1.5
19 years	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.8
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	23.5	24.6	25.8	26.7
Asian	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	2.6	1.9	2.0	1.5
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	4.5	4.5	4.5	6.1
White (non-Hispanic)	65.8	65.5	63.9	60.9
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	1.2	1.2
Unknown	3.3	3.2	2.3	3.2
Missing data	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	238	275	247	224

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	1.3	2.5	0.4	1.3
1 year	12.6	9.5	6.9	11.2
2 years	10.9	8.4	11.7	8.9
3 years	15.5	10.5	8.5	10.7
4 years	5.0	7.6	8.1	8.5
5 years	8.4	6.2	9.3	8.5
6 years	6.3	3.3	8.5	8.0
7 years	5.5	7.3	6.5	7.1
8 years	6.7	7.3	5.7	7.6
9 years	5.5	8.0	10.5	5.4
10 years	4.6	6.9	5.3	3.1
11 years	2.9	5.5	6.9	4.5
12 years	2.9	4.4	3.6	4.5
13 years	3.4	4.0	3.2	3.1
14 years	4.2	2.5	2.4	3.1
15 years	2.1	2.9	1.6	0.9
16 years	0.8	2.5	0.8	2.2
17 years	0.8	0.7	0.0	1.3
18 years	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	14.3	21.8	18.2	17.0
Asian	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	0.4	3.6	2.0	1.8
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	6.7	7.3	8.1	4.0
White (non-Hispanic)	71.8	67.3	71.3	73.7
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.4	3.6
Unknown	6.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Montana [OUTCOMES DATA]

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	86.9	89.4	88.0	90.5
Children with one or more recurrences	13.1	10.6	12.0	9.5
Number	1,112	871	934	814

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.19	0.19	0.63	0.18
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.81	99.81	99.37	99.82
Number	3,221	3,116	2,869	2,705

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	19.3	19.6	18.8	20.8
Guardianship	2.0	2.9	6.5	5.1
Reunification	57.5	58.6	59.4	57.7
Other	8.8	9.2	8.0	9.5
Missing data	12.4	9.8	7.3	7.0
Number	1,327	1,497	1,280	1,087

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	38.5	39.2	31.6	38.6
Guardianship	1.5	2.4	3.1	2.3
Reunification	29.2	32.0	36.7	25.0
Other	15.4	19.2	23.5	22.7
Missing data	15.4	7.2	5.1	11.4
Number	65	125	98	88

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	2.2	2.5	0.8	2.3
Guardianship	1.9	1.9	7.2	4.7
Reunification	47.4	46.2	46.6	48.1
Other	29.9	30.3	28.9	28.0
Missing data	18.7	19.1	16.5	16.8
Number	321	314	249	214

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	18.9	34.3	32.9	38.2
Children older than 12 at entry	81.1	65.7	67.1	61.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	90	99	82	76

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	9.9	13.3	12.5	14.5	12.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.5	38.5	26.3	21.1
Guardianship	1.4	4.4	10.5	6.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.5
Reunification	64.9	62.9	63.0	59.9	25.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	66.7	34.6	63.2	57.9
Other	5.2	4.6	3.7	11.8	25.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	9.5	19.2	5.3	0.0
Missing data	18.6	14.8	10.3	7.6	37.5	50.0	100.0	0.0	14.3	7.7	5.3	10.5
Number	365	458	351	289	8	2	1	1	21	26	19	19

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	35.4	31.3	30.0	20.9	22.9	23.4	23.3	24.6
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.1	1.6	1.7	2.3	2.2	1.8	5.4	5.0
Reunification	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	52.1	48.4	55.0	69.8	54.1	55.5	53.6	53.6
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.1	10.9	3.3	2.3	11.0	11.5	11.3	9.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.3	7.8	10.0	4.7	9.8	7.8	6.3	7.1
Number	0	1	0	1	48	64	60	43	809	850	741	658

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	19.7	4.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.4	31.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	2.6	7.5	6.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	61.8	78.5	88.6	89.4	0.0	66.7	93.1	58.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	5.3	5.4	2.5	4.3	0.0	33.3	0.0	6.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	10.5	4.3	2.5	6.4	0.0	0.0	3.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	76	93	79	47	0	3	29	29	0	0	0	0

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	87.0	84.7	80.5	77.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	9.8	10.9	14.2	15.6
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1.4	3.0	3.0	3.8
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	0.8	0.6	0.9	1.8
48 or more mos.	0.9	0.8	1.3	1.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Number	763	877	760	627

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	68.5	68.5	69.9	69.0
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	20.2	19.1	16.1	18.8
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	8.9	10.6	12.9	11.4
Missing data	2.4	1.9	1.1	0.8
Number	1,588	1,506	1,306	1,175

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	10.9	10.2	1.2	3.1
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	31.3	21.8	32.0	30.1
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	30.5	27.6	28.2	28.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	13.3	19.0	17.8	17.7
48 or more mos.	13.3	21.4	20.7	20.8
Missing data	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	256	294	241	226

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	80.8	81.3	84.1	86.8	57.5	55.2	54.6	68.4	38.9	39.3	33.4	36.5	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0
Children with 3 or more placements	19.2	18.7	15.9	13.2	42.5	44.8	45.4	31.6	61.1	60.7	66.6	63.5	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
Number	1,779	1,746	1,489	1,365	669	629	663	561	1,055	1,129	1,039	1,026	3	1	1	0

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	11.9	11.8	9.4	7.8
Institutions	1.0	0.9	0.4	0.5
Other settings	87.1	87.2	90.3	91.7
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,220	1,166	1,036	928

Montana [STATE COMMENT]

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of Montana's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, 9.5 percent of the children in Montana who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). Although this percent exceeds the national median of 7.1 percent, it represents a substantial improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (-27.5 percent change).

The decline from 2000 to 2003 in the percent of children who were victims of maltreatment recurrence corresponds to a decline in Montana's child victim rate. In 2000, the rate of child maltreatment victims was 10.6 child victims per 1,000 children in the State population. This rate declined to 9.0 child victims per 1,000 children in the population in 2003.

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

In 2003, 0.18 percent of the children in foster care in Montana were found to be maltreated by a foster parent or facility staff member (measure 2.1), which is less than the national median of 0.39 percent. There was a slight decline in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003, but a considerable improvement in performance from 2002 to 2003.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

Montana's performance with regard to achieving permanency for children in foster care cannot be effectively assessed because of missing discharge information for some of the children exiting foster care. For example, 7.0 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1) did not have reason for discharge information, 11.4 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) did not have reason for discharge information, and 16.8 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) did not have reason for discharge information.

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

Montana's performance in achieving reunifications in a timely manner (measure 4.1) is difficult to assess because 7.0 percent of children exiting foster care did not have discharge reasons.

With regard to re-entries into foster care, in 2003, 18.8 percent of the children entering foster care were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (measure 4.2). Although this percent exceeds the national median of 9.5 percent, it represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (-6.9 percent change). However, there was a decline in performance on this measure from 2002 to 2003 (+16.8 percent change). Also in 2003, 11.4 percent of the children entering foster care were entering more than 12 months after a prior foster care episode. Consequently, 30.2 percent of all children entering foster care in 2003 had been in foster care at a prior time.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2003, 33.2 percent of all finalized adoptions in Montana occurred within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 5.1). Although this percent is higher than the national median of 23.9 percent, it represents a decline in performance on the measure from 2000 to 2003 (-21.3 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, 86.8 percent of the children in foster care in Montana for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings (measure 6.1). This percent not only exceeds the national median of 84.2 percent, but also represents improved performance from 2000 to 2003 (+7.4 percent change). Also in 2003, 68.4 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months, experienced no more than two placement settings, which exceeds the national median of 59.1 percent.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 8.3 percent of the children entering foster care in Montana who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percent is equal to the national median of 8.3 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (-35.7 percent change).

Nebraska [CONTEXT DATA]

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	448,795	442,871	442,655	440,840
Race/Ethnicity (%) ¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.1
Asian	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4
Black (non-Hispanic)	5.3	5.5	5.1	5.1
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	8.3	8.6	8.4	8.8
White (non-Hispanic)	81.8	81.3	82.1	81.5
Two or more races	2.1	2.0	1.9	2.0
% Child population in poverty	12.2	13.5	13.0	11.0

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	3,612	3,314	3,909	3,875
Children in foster care on 9/30	5,674	6,254	6,377	6,091
Children adopted	293	310	315	274

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	9,997	22.3 per 1,000	10,707	24.2 per 1,000	12,262	27.7 per 1,000	14,767	33.5 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	3,612	8.1 per 1,000	3,314	7.5 per 1,000	3,909	8.8 per 1,000	3,875	8.8 per 1,000
Child fatalities	3	0.7 per 100,000	9	2.0 per 100,000	6	1.4 per 100,000	16	3.6 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	9.5	9.5	10.3	11.4
1-5 years	31.2	31.4	35.7	34.1
6-10 years	30.1	30.1	27.6	27.0
11-15 years	22.6	23.0	21.1	22.0
16+ years	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.4
Unknown	2.1	1.3	0.9	1.1
Number	3,612	3,314	3,909	3,875

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	6.1	5.6	6.0	6.9
Asian	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7
Black (non-Hispanic)	12.6	11.2	10.6	9.7
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	7.0	8.3	8.0	8.4
White (non-Hispanic)	67.2	65.9	67.1	66.7
Two or more races	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.7
Unknown	6.4	8.1	7.3	6.9
Number	3,612	3,314	3,909	3,875

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	5.1	6.7	6.9	8.0
Medical neglect	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Neglect	70.8	68.7	71.7	72.7
Physical abuse	23.6	26.1	22.1	21.2
Sexual abuse	10.4	11.5	9.6	10.0
Unknown/missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	3,612	3,314	3,909	3,875

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	5,054	5,540	5,914	5,924	3,134	3,350	3,356	3,304	2,514	2,636	2,893	3,137	5,674	6,254	6,377	6,091
Median length of stay (months)	14.6	14.3	14.5	15.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	14.3	14.9	15.1	14.8	14.4	15.0	15.5	15.4

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	2.5	2.7	2.5	2.7	7.6	7.6	8.5	8.6	1.8	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.6	2.4	2.6	2.7
1 year	3.4	3.7	3.9	4.3	4.5	4.0	4.9	4.3	2.9	3.1	3.3	3.8	3.6	3.8	4.0	3.9
2 years	3.9	4.1	4.1	4.4	4.2	4.4	3.7	4.2	4.4	4.3	4.1	4.2	3.9	3.9	4.1	4.3
3 years	3.2	4.1	4.3	4.1	3.9	3.5	3.8	3.5	3.9	4.0	4.9	4.0	3.9	4.0	3.9	4.0
4 years	3.1	3.4	4.1	4.2	3.8	3.2	4.0	3.3	3.6	3.6	4.3	3.5	3.2	3.8	3.9	3.9
5 years	3.9	3.3	3.2	4.0	3.0	2.9	3.7	3.6	3.4	3.2	3.4	4.0	3.2	3.1	3.8	3.9
6 years	3.8	3.7	3.1	3.7	3.3	2.8	3.8	3.5	3.7	3.1	3.7	4.0	3.6	2.9	3.5	3.6
7 years	4.0	3.5	4.0	3.3	3.4	3.9	2.7	2.7	4.1	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.8	3.2	3.3
8 years	4.0	4.0	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.0	2.8	2.8	3.9	3.2	4.3	2.9	3.8	3.5	3.4	3.3
9 years	3.6	3.9	4.2	3.6	3.2	3.9	3.4	2.4	3.3	3.8	3.3	2.9	3.7	4.0	3.4	3.3
10 years	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.1	3.6	4.0	3.0	3.4	4.3	3.6	3.9	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.5
11 years	4.3	4.0	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.9	3.5	3.4	3.5	4.1	3.9	3.5	3.9	3.7	3.5	3.8
12 years	4.7	4.7	4.4	4.4	4.7	4.4	4.2	4.5	3.2	3.6	3.6	3.4	4.5	4.1	4.2	3.9
13 years	6.3	5.7	5.5	5.4	6.1	6.2	7.2	6.8	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.0	5.5	5.2	5.2	5.6
14 years	8.3	8.1	7.4	7.4	10.1	9.4	8.4	9.0	5.4	5.4	4.6	5.5	7.8	7.0	7.0	6.9
15 years	11.1	10.7	11.0	9.8	10.5	11.8	10.8	11.9	7.2	7.8	6.6	6.1	10.3	10.4	9.5	10.0
16 years	12.5	13.0	12.6	12.9	11.8	12.2	11.8	11.3	10.7	11.6	10.2	10.0	12.4	12.2	12.5	11.7
17 years	12.2	12.5	12.5	12.4	8.5	8.4	8.4	9.8	13.8	13.6	14.0	15.6	11.9	12.0	11.7	12.4
18 years	1.2	1.3	1.5	2.2	0.7	0.7	1.2	1.2	12.7	12.2	12.5	13.5	5.3	6.2	6.8	6.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	7.8	8.2	7.8	7.7	7.1	6.2	8.6	9.6	7.2	8.8	8.7	7.7	7.7	6.9	7.8	8.8
Asian	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.8	0.5	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.1	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	16.5	16.6	16.9	15.9	14.4	13.7	12.5	12.9	13.5	12.4	13.0	13.8	16.6	16.8	16.3	15.4
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	7.6	7.6	8.0	8.3	8.6	9.6	9.3	9.5	8.9	9.3	9.3	10.2	7.5	8.0	8.1	7.9
White (non-Hispanic)	66.0	65.5	64.7	65.5	67.8	67.9	66.2	64.5	67.9	67.2	65.3	65.3	66.1	66.1	65.2	65.0
Two or more races	0.2	0.1	0.7	0.8	<.1	0.4	0.6	0.6	<.1	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.8	0.9
Unknown	1.6	1.3	1.6	1.6	1.3	1.7	2.0	2.3	1.8	1.3	2.1	2.2	1.4	1.6	1.6	1.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	483	348	1,034	913
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	253	195	280	293

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	4.1	1.7	5.0	3.4
1 year	6.6	4.9	8.4	6.6
2 years	7.0	6.9	8.9	9.2
3 years	7.5	6.9	9.1	7.8
4 years	5.8	8.0	8.6	9.0
5 years	8.5	6.6	8.5	7.3
6 years	9.5	7.8	7.4	8.0
7 years	7.5	9.2	6.1	6.7
8 years	7.9	7.8	6.7	6.1
9 years	7.2	8.0	6.6	5.8
10 years	4.8	6.3	6.7	6.5
11 years	5.8	2.9	4.0	6.5
12 years	3.7	6.3	4.3	4.2
13 years	5.2	3.4	4.3	3.9
14 years	3.1	6.3	1.8	4.5
15 years	2.5	3.2	2.2	2.2
16 years	1.7	1.7	0.8	1.8
17 years	0.2	1.7	0.5	0.3
18 years	1.4	0.3	0.3	0.3
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	7.2	7.8	6.8	7.2
Asian	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	19.7	21.8	22.0	20.8
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	10.1	9.8	8.3	7.2
White (non-Hispanic)	61.1	58.6	59.8	62.0
Two or more races	0.2	0.0	1.0	1.1
Unknown	1.4	1.7	1.7	1.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	293	310	315	274

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	0.0	1.9	1.0	1.1
1 year	3.4	5.8	5.1	7.7
2 years	13.7	10.0	11.7	10.6
3 years	9.6	9.7	11.7	10.9
4 years	7.2	7.4	10.5	9.5
5 years	7.2	8.7	9.8	7.7
6 years	8.5	8.4	7.9	8.4
7 years	10.9	7.1	7.0	8.0
8 years	7.5	6.5	8.3	6.6
9 years	6.8	7.7	6.7	7.7
10 years	7.2	4.2	6.0	5.8
11 years	6.5	6.8	4.4	5.1
12 years	3.4	4.2	3.2	4.0
13 years	3.4	3.5	1.9	2.6
14 years	0.7	1.9	2.2	1.8
15 years	2.0	3.2	1.0	1.1
16 years	1.0	1.9	1.0	0.4
17 years	0.7	1.0	0.6	0.7
18 years	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.4
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	4.4	4.8	4.8	6.9
Asian	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.7
Black (non-Hispanic)	21.8	17.1	15.6	17.9
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	3.8	8.1	10.2	13.9
White (non-Hispanic)	68.3	67.4	67.3	57.3
Two or more races	0.0	1.0	1.3	0.7
Unknown	1.7	1.0	1.0	2.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Nebraska [OUTCOMES DATA]

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	92.4	94.5	95.3	92.9
Children with one or more recurrences	7.6	5.5	4.7	7.1
Number	1,425	1,427	1,557	1,566

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	.04	.08	.09	0.13
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.96	99.92	99.91	99.87
Number	7,637	8,310	8,603	8,402

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	7.1	0.7	10.0	8.9
Guardianship	2.9	0.5	7.4	8.2
Reunification	62.6	80.3	75.2	76.0
Other	0.8	0.2	3.1	3.8
Missing data	26.6	18.2	4.3	3.1
Number	2,514	2,636	2,893	3,137

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	10.3	0.0	44.0	30.1
Guardianship	0.0	2.3	6.0	8.7
Reunification	65.5	76.7	44.3	54.2
Other	0.0	0.0	2.5	4.6
Missing data	24.1	20.9	3.2	2.4
Number	29	43	316	369

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	<.1	0.0	0.3	0.2
Guardianship	1.3	<.1	3.9	5.1
Reunification	72.8	82.2	84.7	85.6
Other	0.7	<.1	4.9	5.5
Missing data	25.1	17.7	6.2	3.6
Number	1,191	1,234	1,317	1,457

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	—	—	3.2	5.1
Children older than 12 at entry	—	—	96.8	94.9
Missing data	—	—	0.0	0.0
Number	—	—	31	39

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	2.8	0.4	6.4	7.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	10.6	1.5	11.9	12.2
Guardianship	1.7	2.1	6.8	13.3	0.0	0.0	12.1	0.0	5.3	0.3	13.3	8.5
Reunification	56.4	71.2	74.9	70.4	71.4	100.0	84.8	83.3	56.2	76.5	69.2	71.1
Other	2.8	0.0	4.8	4.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.3	1.9	3.0
Missing data	36.5	26.2	7.2	3.8	28.6	0.0	3.0	0.0	27.1	21.3	3.7	5.1
Number	181	233	251	240	14	21	33	12	340	328	377	433

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.7	0.0	10.1	11.8	7.5	0.7	10.3	7.7
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.1	0.0	8.2	4.7	2.5	0.5	6.2	8.4
Reunification	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	61.8	72.5	74.3	77.9	64.6	83.0	76.5	77.1
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.6	2.8	0.6	0.2	3.2	4.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	32.4	27.5	4.9	2.8	24.8	15.7	3.8	2.6
Number	0	0	0	1	225	244	268	321	1,708	1,772	1,889	2,050

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	9.1	0.0	5.0	7.4	0.0	0.0	26.7	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	2.3	0.0	5.0	1.5	0.0	0.0	6.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	65.9	90.9	80.0	83.8	50.0	60.0	40.0	75.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	2.3	0.0	5.0	1.5	0.0	0.0	6.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	20.5	9.1	5.0	5.9	50.0	40.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	44	33	60	68	2	5	15	12	0	0	0	0

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	44.4	40.3	48.3	49.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	30.7	27.2	29.9	26.8
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	12.4	15.6	11.5	13.1
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	5.8	9.3	6.3	5.2
48 or more mos.	6.7	7.6	4.0	5.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,575	2,118	2,175	2,384

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	92.9	90.0	83.1	81.9
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	3.5	4.8	8.2	10.0
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	2.1	3.9	6.7	6.7
Missing data	1.5	1.3	2.0	1.3
Number	3,134	3,350	3,356	3,304

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	0.0	0.0	2.4	2.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	17.9	5.3	14.8	17.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	26.3	15.8	33.8	24.8
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	21.8	21.1	26.2	25.2
48 or more mos.	34.1	57.9	22.8	29.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	179	19	290	278

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	83.4	80.4	86.2	85.1	56.8	50.8	59.1	58.3	56.5	36.5	35.1	31.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	16.6	19.6	13.8	14.9	43.2	49.2	40.9	41.7	43.5	63.5	64.9	68.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	3,575	3,775	3,843	3,869	2,097	2,320	2,423	2,299	2,515	2,794	2,996	3,058	1	1	8	2

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	3.0	2.6	4.6	5.1
Institutions	6.6	6.0	2.6	1.5
Other settings	90.4	91.4	92.8	93.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,586	1,642	1,674	1,562

Todd Reckling, Administrator
Nebraska Health and Human Services System

The following are Nebraska's comments on the State's data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2003: Report to Congress*.

Section B (Maltreatment Information Overview): Nebraska had a 32 percent overall increase in the total number of children who were subjects of a CAN report. In July 2003, we implemented a new reporting tool that guides decision making on the acceptance of CAN reports. The use of this new tool has resulted in more reports being accepted for reasons of safety AND risk. It stands to reason that if you are investigating more reports based on risk that the substantiation rate/numbers of victims may decrease.

Section C (Children in Foster Care): Nebraska has two flaws in the selection logic for AFCARS: (1) children who turn age 19 during the reporting period are dropped, and (2) all children discharged during one reporting period where the data are not entered until the next reporting period are dropped. A clean up of the selection logic and a re-submission of the data will occur in 2005.

Section D (Children Waiting to be Adopted): There is a data entry issue pertaining to recording termination of parental rights. We continue to work with field staff to get all of these data entered on the data system.

Outcome Measure 3.4 (Exits to Emancipation): Refer back to our selection logic problem, where we are dropping youth age 19 from the report. Over 80 percent of youth 18 and older in Nebraska were reunified with their parent. We have more of our older youth being discharged for reunification rather than for the reason of emancipation.

Outcome Measure 1.1 (Recurrence of Maltreatment): The percentage of children experiencing maltreatment recurrence has been increasing. Our 2004 data will continue to reflect an increase. The implementation of a new reporting tool that guides decision making on the acceptance of CAN reports has resulted in more reports being accepted for reasons of both safety and risk. Another issue is providing a clearer definition of what constitutes a new report of maltreatment. Defining a new report prevents the blending of allegations into previous reports that may have existed. This practice change and the quality of the data gathered have significantly improved over time and have resulted in consistent decision-making across the State.

Outcome Measure 4.1 (Time to Reunification): Nebraska has a low percentage of reunifications occurring within 12 months compared to the national median. Nebraska struggles with this measure as we do not report youth as meeting this measure until a Court of competent jurisdiction returns physical and legal custody of the youth to the parent/caretaker. We have issues with some courts keeping youth in the State's custody for long periods of time after the youth has returned home.

Outcome Measure 4.2 (Foster Care Re-entry): We have begun to analyze data to determine strategies to address this issue. One area to note is that when the Nebraska data system was released, historical removal information was not converted. Therefore, re-entry data is not accurate for 2000 and 2001 and was actually much higher but the first removal episode was not captured. We also added the Juvenile Services population to the data system in 2000, which increased the number of youth who could be discharged and re-enter foster care. There are many situations of a youth being involved with us based on abuse/neglect and then later re-entering our system based on a juvenile crime. The data continue to improve over time.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of Nebraska's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, 7.1 percent of the children in Nebraska who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). Although this percent is equal to the national median and represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (-6.6 percent change), it also represents a noticeable decline in performance from 2002 to 2003 (+51.1 percent change).

In 2003, the rate of child maltreatment victims was 8.8 child victims per 1,000 children in the State population, which is lower than the national median of 10.6 child victims per 1,000 children in the population.

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

In 2003, 0.13 percent of the children in foster care in Nebraska were found to be maltreated by a foster parent or facility staff member (measure 2.1). Although this percent is less than the national median of 0.39 percent, it represents a decline in performance on the measure from 2000 to 2003 (+225.0 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003 in Nebraska, 93.1 percent of children exiting foster care (measure 3.1) were discharged to a permanent home, which exceeds the national median of 86.3 percent. Also, 93.0 percent of children exiting care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) were discharged to a permanent home, which exceeds the national median of 79.5 percent. Furthermore, 90.9 percent of the children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home, which exceeds the national median of 72.2 percent.

In 2003, only 39 children were reported to have emancipated from foster care (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) although 423 children exiting foster care were age 18 or older at the time of exit (measure 3.4). This may be due to the fact that the age of majority in Nebraska is 19 and children exiting care at age 18 who return home are reported as reunified. In 2000, only two children were reported as having emancipated from foster care.

There were no real differences with regard to exits to permanency as a function of children's race or ethnicity (measure 3.5). (This was assessed only when a particular race or ethnicity accounted for at least 10 percent of the exits from foster care.) White (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care in 2003 were as likely to be discharged to a permanent home (93.2 percent) as were Black (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care (91.8 percent) and Hispanic children (94.4 percent). However, the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the foster care population (15.4 percent) was three times the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the State's child population (5.1 percent).

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, only 49.5 percent of reunifications in Nebraska occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1). Although this percent is less than the national median of 72.0 percent, it represents an improvement in performance on the measure from 2000 to 2003 (+11.5 percent change). In addition, 10.6 percent of children reunified in 2003 had been in foster care for at least 36 months. This percent exceeds the national median of 3.5 percent.

In 2003, 10.0 percent of the children entering foster care were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (measure 4.2). Although this percent is only slightly larger than the national median of 9.5 percent, it represents a considerable decline in State performance from 2000 to 2003 (+185.7 percent change). In addition, 6.7 percent of the children entering foster care were entering more than 12 months after a prior foster care episode, which represents an increase from 2000 (+219.0 percent change). Consequently, 16.7 percent of children entering foster care in 2003 had been in foster care at a prior time, compared to only 5.6 percent of children entering foster care in 2000.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2003, 20.2 percent of all finalized adoptions in Nebraska occurred within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 5.1). Although this percent is less than the national median of 23.9 percent, it represents an improvement in performance on the measure from 2000 to 2003 (+12.8 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, 85.1 percent of the children in foster care in Nebraska who were in care for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings (measure 6.1), which is close to the national median of 84.2 percent. Also in 2003, 58.3 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months, experienced no more than two placement settings, which is about equal to the national median of 59.1 percent.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 6.6 percent of the children entering foster care in Nebraska who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percent not only is less than the national median of 8.3 percent, but also represents an improvement in performance on the measure from 2000 to 2003 (-31.1 percent change).

Nevada [CONTEXT DATA]

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	518,149	551,557	566,219	581,397
Race/Ethnicity (%)¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
Asian	4.0	4.0	3.6	3.6
Black (non-Hispanic)	8.0	8.1	7.6	7.5
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.5	0.4	0.4
Hispanic (of any race)	28.6	29.0	29.1	30.0
White (non-Hispanic)	54.0	53.9	54.6	53.8
Two or more races	—	—	3.6	3.6
% Child population in poverty	11.9	9.1	12.1	14.8

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	5,775	4,939	5,008	4,578
Children in foster care on 9/30	1,615	2,959	3,291	3,599
Children adopted	231	244	254	296

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	20,437	39.4 per 1,000	22,529	40.8 per 1,000	22,491	39.7 per 1,000	28,148	48.4 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	5,775	11.1 per 1,000	4,939	8.9 per 1,000	5,008	8.8 per 1,000	4,578	7.9 per 1,000
Child fatalities	3	0.6 per 100,000	4	0.7 per 100,000	3	0.5 per 100,000	3	0.5 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	11.1	12.5	13.1	16.0
1-5 years	36.1	33.3	36.6	36.2
6-10 years	28.7	28.1	25.0	25.6
11-15 years	19.0	20.7	19.0	18.3
16+ years	3.3	3.6	3.7	3.8
Unknown	1.9	1.9	2.5	0.1
Number	5,775	4,939	5,008	4,578

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.2	2.0	1.7	1.1
Asian	0.7	0.7	1.0	1.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	23.7	18.6	18.7	17.4
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.9
Hispanic (of any race)	4.5	4.6	4.6	21.7
White (non-Hispanic)	66.2	70.2	70.0	48.3
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.3
Unknown	3.6	3.9	3.9	5.3
Number	5,775	4,939	5,008	4,578

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	3.5	4.7	2.5	6.8
Medical neglect	1.9	1.8	2.0	1.2
Neglect	42.8	34.8	52.6	82.1
Physical abuse	18.0	16.3	17.6	16.0
Sexual abuse	4.5	4.5	4.9	3.8
Unknown/missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	51.2	45.6	20.5	0.0
Number	5,775	4,939	5,008	4,578

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	1,329	2,674	2,934	3,675	673	3,338	3,435	3,302	387	3,053	3,078	3,378	1,615	2,959	3,291	3,599
Median length of stay (months)	16.7	20.6	20.4	18.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	13.3	0.2	0.3	1.4	17.0	20.3	17.7	19.9

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	5.7	5.5	5.4	6.8	19.2	15.4	16.1	20.3	4.7	10.9	10.6	12.3	4.5	5.5	6.2	6.1
1 year	6.7	7.4	6.5	7.1	9.5	7.4	7.7	7.8	7.2	6.6	7.1	8.1	8.6	6.7	7.0	7.1
2 years	6.4	7.6	7.3	6.6	6.8	6.8	7.3	7.5	5.9	8.0	7.3	8.4	6.9	7.3	6.7	6.9
3 years	5.5	6.4	6.4	6.6	7.3	6.6	6.3	6.5	4.9	7.2	7.3	6.6	6.8	6.4	6.8	5.9
4 years	6.8	5.6	5.5	5.8	6.4	6.6	5.4	6.1	8.8	7.4	5.8	7.0	6.3	5.6	5.3	6.2
5 years	5.7	5.2	5.4	6.6	5.9	6.1	6.1	5.5	6.2	6.4	5.9	5.8	6.1	5.4	5.9	5.9
6 years	6.2	5.7	4.9	5.2	4.8	5.5	5.5	5.1	7.2	5.9	5.8	5.4	5.7	5.0	5.1	5.9
7 years	5.1	5.4	5.7	4.7	5.8	5.5	5.2	4.7	7.0	5.0	5.4	5.6	5.0	5.7	4.7	4.7
8 years	6.1	4.7	5.2	5.9	5.2	4.4	4.7	4.2	7.5	4.9	5.1	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.5	4.3
9 years	5.5	5.5	5.0	4.4	4.9	4.8	4.1	3.8	4.7	4.9	5.2	4.2	5.8	5.0	4.2	4.9
10 years	5.0	4.6	5.0	4.6	3.1	4.2	4.1	4.1	5.2	4.0	4.7	4.5	5.2	5.0	4.3	4.4
11 years	6.5	4.8	4.5	4.9	2.8	4.6	4.4	4.3	4.9	5.1	4.7	4.2	3.8	4.5	4.4	4.4
12 years	4.6	5.0	4.2	4.8	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.8	5.7	3.7	3.4	3.7	5.4	4.3	4.2	5.1
13 years	5.8	4.3	5.1	4.5	3.4	4.6	3.9	4.1	5.4	4.4	4.5	3.7	4.3	5.0	4.3	5.0
14 years	5.3	5.0	4.5	4.9	4.3	3.5	4.1	3.9	3.6	3.6	3.8	3.4	4.9	4.7	5.0	4.9
15 years	4.4	4.7	4.6	4.4	2.8	3.8	3.8	3.3	4.4	3.7	3.8	3.2	4.8	4.5	4.5	5.3
16 years	4.9	4.3	4.7	4.3	2.1	3.1	3.6	3.0	2.3	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.9	4.7	4.6	4.5
17 years	2.7	4.8	4.3	4.2	1.6	2.3	2.9	1.7	2.8	2.5	2.5	2.9	4.3	4.1	5.0	3.9
18 years	0.3	1.9	3.5	1.8	0.0	<.1	0.3	<.1	0.5	1.3	2.1	1.9	2.0	3.4	3.1	2.0
19 years	0.4	0.6	1.0	0.7	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.9	2.2	1.0
20 years	<.1	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	<.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.7	0.4
Missing data	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.3	1.0	0.7	0.1	0.0	1.0	1.0	0.2	0.3	0.7	0.5	1.1

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	1.4	0.3	0.3	1.1	0.6	0.8	0.3	0.6	2.6	0.9	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.3	0.2	0.9
Asian	1.1	0.6	0.6	0.7	1.0	1.2	1.1	0.9	2.6	1.2	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6
Black (non-Hispanic)	20.9	23.0	20.6	23.2	15.6	21.3	19.4	20.7	6.5	23.5	20.3	20.5	22.2	20.6	19.6	23.5
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.8	1.0	0.7	0.3	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.2	1.0	1.1	0.9
Hispanic (of any race)	10.3	8.9	11.2	13.7	10.1	18.9	21.0	20.7	12.1	17.6	21.3	19.5	9.8	11.2	12.0	14.7
White (non-Hispanic)	57.0	59.8	57.0	54.8	60.2	49.3	49.7	49.2	63.8	51.1	50.1	50.1	56.7	56.9	55.7	54.1
Two or more races	2.8	2.9	4.9	3.5	3.1	4.2	4.2	5.4	1.3	2.4	4.0	5.0	3.3	4.9	5.0	3.8
Unknown	5.4	3.6	4.5	2.0	8.3	3.4	3.4	1.9	10.9	2.6	1.9	2.3	5.3	4.4	5.7	1.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	—	593	534	924
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	—	0	1	205

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	—	6.1	8.1	6.0
1 year	—	10.6	7.5	10.6
2 years	—	9.3	8.6	9.1
3 years	—	9.3	8.2	7.7
4 years	—	9.4	7.3	7.9
5 years	—	7.3	8.6	6.8
6 years	—	5.9	6.7	8.3
7 years	—	7.6	5.8	5.4
8 years	—	6.6	7.7	4.5
9 years	—	5.4	6.9	6.0
10 years	—	6.1	4.9	4.8
11 years	—	4.9	5.6	4.7
12 years	—	3.4	4.5	4.0
13 years	—	3.9	2.4	3.4
14 years	—	1.9	3.4	3.7
15 years	—	1.2	2.1	3.5
16 years	—	0.5	0.9	1.5
17 years	—	0.3	0.6	1.1
18 years	—	0.2	0.0	0.4
19 years	—	0.0	0.2	0.2
20+ years	—	0.0	0.0	0.2
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	0.0	0.0	1.0
Asian	—	0.7	0.6	0.9
Black (non-Hispanic)	—	22.3	21.0	23.7
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	—	1.3	1.7	0.4
Hispanic (of any race)	—	7.4	9.6	16.1
White (non-Hispanic)	—	60.9	58.4	51.9
Two or more races	—	5.7	6.6	4.9
Unknown	—	1.7	2.2	1.1
Missing data	—	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	231	244	254	296

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	3.0	0.8	0.8	2.0
1 year	13.0	9.4	10.2	10.8
2 years	16.5	19.7	11.4	12.8
3 years	11.7	13.5	11.4	12.8
4 years	9.5	10.7	9.1	10.8
5 years	9.1	7.4	5.9	7.1
6 years	6.1	5.3	7.9	5.4
7 years	5.6	5.7	7.9	8.4
8 years	6.5	4.1	7.9	3.4
9 years	4.8	4.5	5.9	6.8
10 years	3.0	6.1	4.3	5.4
11 years	2.2	4.1	4.7	4.1
12 years	2.6	3.3	4.3	3.4
13 years	3.0	0.8	4.7	2.0
14 years	0.9	2.9	2.0	0.7
15 years	0.9	0.8	0.4	2.4
16 years	1.7	0.8	0.8	1.0
17 years	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.7
18 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.3	0.8	0.4	0.3
Asian	1.3	2.0	2.4	2.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	22.5	23.0	26.4	23.3
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	1.2	0.3
Hispanic (of any race)	12.6	12.3	9.1	15.2
White (non-Hispanic)	60.2	61.9	55.9	55.4
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	4.7	3.4
Unknown	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Nevada [OUTCOMES DATA]

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—	94.7
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—	5.3
Number	—	—	—	2,056

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	0.02
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	99.98
Number	—	—	—	6,331

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	7.1	7.0	8.2
Guardianship	0.3	2.0	2.0	0.6
Reunification	38.0	71.8	68.6	67.3
Other	5.4	2.4	2.8	10.3
Missing data	56.3	16.6	19.6	13.6
Number	387	3,053	3,078	3,378

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	33.3	11.4	30.8
Guardianship	9.1	0.0	2.3	1.0
Reunification	45.5	42.9	54.5	24.6
Other	0.0	14.3	9.1	25.6
Missing data	45.5	9.5	22.7	17.9
Number	11	21	44	195

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.2
Guardianship	2.2	0.8	0.8	0.8
Reunification	26.7	78.2	74.8	71.4
Other	6.7	3.8	6.5	19.1
Missing data	64.4	17.2	17.6	8.5
Number	45	495	523	518

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	—	67.5	35.7	34.3
Children older than 12 at entry	—	32.5	64.3	64.7
Missing data	—	0.0	0.0	1.0
Number	—	40	42	102

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/American Indian				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.3	0.0	5.6	3.1	3.1	0.0	6.7	6.7	8.2
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.1	0.0	0.0	2.1	2.4	1.0
Reunification	0.0	88.5	66.7	50.0	10.0	83.3	65.6	75.0	40.0	74.4	75.5	68.6
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	21.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.3	4.0	3.2	2.1	12.6
Missing data	100.0	11.5	33.3	14.3	90.0	11.1	28.1	15.6	56.0	13.5	13.3	9.5
Number	10	26	15	28	10	36	32	32	25	716	624	692

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	4.2	7.7	18.5	0.0	2.2	3.2	3.6	0.0	9.4	8.9	9.7
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	1.7	0.2	0.4	2.6	2.0	0.5
Reunification	0.0	87.5	84.6	44.4	51.1	79.9	77.0	79.1	41.7	67.9	62.8	63.1
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	18.5	8.5	0.6	1.1	6.8	4.5	2.8	3.4	10.5
Missing data	100.0	8.3	7.7	18.5	40.4	16.5	17.0	10.3	53.4	17.3	22.9	16.1
Number	1	24	26	27	47	538	657	660	247	1,559	1,543	1,693

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	6.3	1.7	6.4	0.0	2.7	9.0	10.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	0.0	2.5	6.8	2.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	16.7	45.0	47.5	60.3	40.0	83.8	69.7	66.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	4.8	3.8	16.9	7.7	60.0	1.4	2.5	11.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	78.6	42.5	27.1	23.1	0.0	12.2	18.9	11.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	42	80	59	78	5	74	122	168	0	0	0	0

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	60.5	94.1	90.6	77.2
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	27.9	3.6	4.7	13.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	5.4	1.3	1.6	3.7
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.4	0.5	0.5	1.2
48 or more mos.	4.8	0.5	2.5	1.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	<.1	3.2
Number	147	2,193	2,112	2,275

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	78.6	84.0	84.8	91.8
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	2.5	9.0	6.9	0.7
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	1.5	3.4	5.6	1.3
Missing data	17.4	3.6	2.7	6.2
Number	673	3,338	3,435	3,302

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	—	18.0	10.7	1.8
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	—	18.4	18.1	16.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	—	23.5	22.3	21.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	—	13.4	16.7	19.8
48 or more mos.	—	26.7	32.1	40.3
Missing data	—	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	—	217	215	278

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	—	97.4	90.7	88.8	—	89.6	81.3	64.4	—	95.3	84.5	64.9	—	100.0	88.9	31.4
Children with 3 or more placements	—	2.6	5.0	6.3	—	10.4	18.7	31.1	—	4.7	15.5	24.1	—	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	—	3,531	3,673	3,454	—	826	890	1,293	—	1,650	1,797	2,125	—	5	9	105

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	0.9	0.0	<.1	1.2
Institutions	5.7	93.8	90.0	6.1
Other settings	93.4	6.1	9.8	29.7
Missing data	0.0	<.1	0.2	63.0
Number	212	2,140	1,986	2,563

Nevada [STATE COMMENT]

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of Nevada's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, 5.3 percent of the children in Nevada who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1), which is less than the national median of 7.1 percent. Data for 2000, 2001, and 2002 are not available for this measure.

Nevada's relatively low percentage of children who were victims of maltreatment recurrence in 2003 corresponds to a relatively low child victim rate in 2003. In 2003, the rate of child maltreatment victims in Nevada was 7.9 child victims per 1,000 children in the State population, which is less than the national median of 10.6 child victims per 1,000 children in the population. The 2003 rate also represents a decrease from 2000, when the rate was 11.1 child victims per 1,000 children in the population.

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

In 2003, 0.02 percent of the children in foster care in Nevada were found to be maltreated by a foster parent or facility staff member (measure 2.1), which is considerably less than the national median of 0.39 percent. Data for 2000, 2001, and 2002 are not available for this measure.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

Nevada's performance with regard to achieving outcome 3 cannot be assessed because of the high percentage of missing data pertaining to the reason for discharge for children exiting foster care. For example, 13.6 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1) in 2003 did not have discharge reasons, 17.9 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) did not have discharge reasons, and 8.5 percent of the children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) did not have discharge reasons. Consequently, the percentage of children discharged to a permanent home and the percent discharged to emancipation cannot be determined (measure 3.4).

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

Nevada's performance with regard to achieving timely reunifications cannot be assessed because of the extent of missing discharge reasons.

With regard to re-entries into foster care, in 2003, 0.7 percent of the children entering foster care were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (measure 4.2), which is considerably less than the national median of 9.5 percent. However, because of the variation in these data from 2000 to 2003, the percentage of re-entries in 2003 may reflect data quality issues rather than actual performance.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

Nevada's performance with regard to achieving timely adoptions cannot be assessed because of the extent of missing discharge reasons.

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

Although there is missing placement information pertaining to outcome 6, in general, Nevada appears to be fairly successful in achieving this outcome. In 2003, 88.8 percent of the children in foster care for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings, which exceeds the national median of 84.2 percent. In addition, in 2003, 64.4 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months but less than 24 months experienced no more than two placement settings, which exceeds the national median of 59.1 percent.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 7.3 percent of the children entering foster care who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). Although this percentage is less than the national median of 8.3 percent, it represents a decline in performance from 2000 to 2003 (+10.6 percent change).

New Hampshire [CONTEXT DATA]

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	309,225	307,832	307,365	306,231
Race/Ethnicity (%)¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	0.8	1.0	0.9	0.9
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.6
White (non-Hispanic)	93.4	93.2	93.6	93.3
Two or more races	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.5
% Child population in poverty	7.7	8.2	5.8	7.2

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	811	1,102	962	1,043
Children in foster care on 9/30	1,311	1,288	1,291	1,217
Children adopted	97	95	114	131

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	8,120	26.3 per 1,000	12,132	39.4 per 1,000	10,564	34.4 per 1,000	9,697	31.7 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	811	2.6 per 1,000	1,102	3.6 per 1,000	962	3.1 per 1,000	1,043	3.4 per 1,000
Child fatalities	9	3.0 per 100,000	1	0.3 per 100,000	1	0.3 per 100,000	3	1.0 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	7.8	9.4	8.4	8.5
1-5 years	27.3	29.3	24.7	27.7
6-10 years	28.6	31.1	28.0	28.7
11-15 years	31.3	24.1	31.2	28.2
16+ years	4.1	5.1	6.9	5.8
Unknown	1.0	0.9	0.8	1.1
Number	811	1,102	962	1,043

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.4
Asian	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	2.2	3.0	2.3	1.8
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	5.3	3.6	3.6	4.1
White (non-Hispanic)	65.7	79.4	89.1	86.8
Two or more races	1.0	1.5	0.8	1.6
Unknown	25.3	11.5	3.5	5.0
Number	811	1,102	962	1,043

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	2.6	3.6	1.9	1.5
Medical neglect	2.6	1.8	2.8	2.2
Neglect	64.4	63.4	60.3	62.9
Physical abuse	18.9	19.1	21.4	19.4
Sexual abuse	20.3	21.4	21.2	20.8
Unknown/missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	811	1,102	962	1,043

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	1,317	1,222	1,240	1,252	484	534	563	578	491	468	512	613	1,311	1,288	1,291	1,217
Median length of stay (months)	24.6	27.6	26.0	23.9	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	18.3	20.3	15.3	13.8	26.1	25.2	23.2	24.0

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	2.6	1.9	2.0	2.3	10.3	10.7	10.8	8.5	2.9	3.4	3.5	2.9	2.0	2.1	2.0	1.7
1 year	3.3	3.8	3.9	4.2	4.3	6.6	5.0	5.2	4.3	3.4	3.1	2.9	3.6	4.0	4.3	3.8
2 years	4.6	3.3	4.0	3.9	6.2	5.4	5.2	5.0	4.3	4.5	3.5	5.5	3.4	3.9	4.0	4.8
3 years	3.6	5.5	4.5	4.2	5.4	6.9	5.0	5.7	3.7	6.4	5.1	4.7	5.4	4.6	4.0	4.0
4 years	4.4	3.7	5.1	4.6	5.2	6.4	3.9	4.3	5.9	5.1	4.9	4.2	3.8	5.2	4.6	4.2
5 years	5.0	3.9	3.8	4.3	4.1	3.9	3.2	4.0	7.1	5.8	4.9	4.4	3.9	3.7	4.3	4.7
6 years	5.2	4.3	3.7	3.4	4.5	3.7	3.0	2.4	5.1	3.6	4.7	3.4	4.1	3.7	3.2	3.5
7 years	5.8	5.0	4.2	3.8	5.0	5.1	3.6	2.9	5.5	4.3	3.7	4.7	4.7	4.4	3.8	2.9
8 years	6.1	5.4	5.1	3.8	3.5	3.7	3.0	4.0	6.3	4.5	3.3	3.3	5.3	5.3	3.5	3.3
9 years	5.2	5.6	5.3	5.3	5.2	4.5	3.6	3.6	3.9	3.0	3.9	4.1	5.3	5.3	5.3	3.7
10 years	6.8	6.4	5.8	5.0	4.3	4.5	5.5	3.1	5.1	5.3	6.3	3.3	6.2	5.7	5.0	5.3
11 years	6.1	6.9	6.1	5.8	4.5	4.9	6.0	5.9	3.1	6.0	4.5	3.1	6.9	5.9	5.5	5.9
12 years	5.7	7.4	6.5	6.4	7.6	5.2	4.4	5.5	3.3	3.4	4.9	4.7	6.9	6.6	6.6	6.7
13 years	5.6	7.3	7.4	7.3	6.4	4.5	7.1	6.4	2.2	4.3	4.9	4.6	7.5	7.5	7.4	6.7
14 years	6.5	6.4	7.9	8.2	6.8	6.2	8.5	10.0	2.6	4.5	5.7	6.4	6.9	7.6	8.0	8.9
15 years	6.8	7.4	7.7	9.3	7.2	7.7	9.1	11.1	5.9	4.5	6.3	8.8	7.5	7.7	9.5	9.3
16 years	7.3	6.4	8.0	8.5	5.6	5.1	7.8	7.3	9.0	5.3	7.8	9.8	6.6	7.8	8.6	9.7
17 years	5.7	5.8	5.6	6.9	3.3	4.3	5.0	4.7	6.1	7.3	8.4	9.0	6.2	5.6	7.1	7.5
18 years	2.0	2.8	2.0	2.0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	8.8	10.0	7.4	6.0	2.7	2.1	2.1	2.6
19 years	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.4	3.2	1.8	2.4	0.7	0.9	0.5	0.7
20 years	0.8	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.6	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.2
Missing data	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.0	1.4	1.1	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.7	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5
Asian	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	<.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	1.9	2.6	3.3	3.8	4.3	3.2	4.1	3.6	2.9	1.3	2.5	3.4	2.4	3.3	4.0	3.9
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	<.1	<.1	0.2	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	5.2	4.7	4.9	5.4	5.2	5.6	5.2	6.6	5.9	4.7	4.9	7.2	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.0
White (non-Hispanic)	87.7	87.4	86.3	85.0	82.4	85.6	86.7	78.5	83.1	89.1	86.9	83.0	87.5	86.0	86.2	82.9
Two or more races	3.5	4.1	3.8	3.2	2.7	2.2	1.4	2.9	1.4	2.8	3.7	2.1	4.0	3.8	2.8	3.6
Unknown	0.6	0.7	1.1	1.7	1.4	1.7	1.8	7.8	1.0	0.4	1.6	2.9	0.8	1.2	1.2	3.9
Missing data	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.5	1.1	0.0	0.0	5.1	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	207	198	193	176
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	89	79	25	20

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
1 year	3.9	3.0	2.6	1.7
2 years	3.4	6.1	6.7	7.4
3 years	10.1	4.0	5.2	5.7
4 years	6.8	7.6	6.2	7.4
5 years	9.7	8.1	8.3	6.8
6 years	9.7	5.6	7.3	5.7
7 years	8.7	8.6	6.7	4.0
8 years	11.1	9.1	8.3	5.1
9 years	8.2	9.1	9.8	7.4
10 years	9.2	8.6	8.3	10.8
11 years	5.8	9.6	7.3	8.5
12 years	5.3	7.1	9.3	9.1
13 years	4.3	5.1	4.7	7.4
14 years	1.0	3.5	5.2	5.7
15 years	1.4	1.0	1.6	4.0
16 years	0.5	2.0	1.0	1.7
17 years	0.5	1.0	1.6	1.1
18 years	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.6
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0
Asian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6
Black (non-Hispanic)	1.9	1.5	1.6	1.1
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	6.8	7.1	7.3	9.7
White (non-Hispanic)	85.0	84.8	86.0	82.4
Two or more races	5.3	5.6	3.6	5.7
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	97	95	114	131

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	1.0	0.0	1.8	0.8
1 year	2.1	3.2	2.6	2.3
2 years	2.1	9.5	6.1	9.2
3 years	10.3	14.7	8.8	11.5
4 years	14.4	6.3	7.0	8.4
5 years	15.5	13.7	8.8	6.1
6 years	10.3	9.5	10.5	9.2
7 years	11.3	9.5	7.0	11.5
8 years	11.3	8.4	5.3	6.1
9 years	5.2	8.4	5.3	11.5
10 years	7.2	4.2	8.8	4.6
11 years	5.2	4.2	8.8	2.3
12 years	2.1	2.1	7.9	7.6
13 years	0.0	3.2	4.4	3.1
14 years	0.0	2.1	3.5	3.1
15 years	1.0	0.0	1.8	2.3
16 years	1.0	0.0	0.9	0.0
17 years	0.0	1.1	0.9	0.8
18 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	2.1	3.2	0.9	1.5
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	3.1	1.1	0.0	0.8
Hispanic (of any race)	8.2	5.3	0.9	6.1
White (non-Hispanic)	85.6	88.4	90.4	88.5
Two or more races	0.0	2.1	4.4	0.0
Unknown	1.0	0.0	1.8	3.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

New Hampshire [OUTCOMES DATA]

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	91.8	91.7	97.4	95.4
Children with one or more recurrences	8.2	8.3	2.6	4.6
Number	281	384	388	413

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.0	0.12	0.06	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	100.00	99.88	99.94	—
Number	1,693	1,631	1,708	—

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	18.3	16.7	19.1	20.4
Guardianship	5.5	4.1	5.3	4.9
Reunification	47.7	55.1	54.9	50.6
Other	19.3	18.8	17.2	18.9
Missing data	9.2	5.3	3.5	5.2
Number	491	468	512	613

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	44.3	33.3	29.1	27.2
Guardianship	3.2	1.4	4.9	4.0
Reunification	31.6	44.7	42.7	38.4
Other	15.8	14.9	16.5	22.5
Missing data	5.1	5.7	6.8	7.9
Number	158	141	103	151

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.8	0.7	0.5
Guardianship	1.4	3.2	3.3	4.1
Reunification	52.8	44.4	58.9	58.6
Other	35.9	45.2	30.5	31.8
Missing data	9.9	6.3	6.6	5.0
Number	142	126	151	220

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	45.6	33.3	42.9	32.4
Children older than 12 at entry	54.4	66.7	57.1	67.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	57	54	56	71

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/American Indian				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	21.4	33.3	7.7	9.5
Guardianship	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	21.4	0.0	15.4	4.8
Reunification	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	33.3	0.0	100.0	0.0	35.7	33.3	69.2	57.1
Other	0.0	0.0	100.0	25.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	21.4	16.7	0.0	14.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	66.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	7.7	14.3
Number	0	1	1	4	3	1	1	1	14	6	13	21

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	10.3	22.7	4.0	27.3	20.6	15.3	20.0	20.2
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.4	0.0	16.0	9.1	5.6	4.1	4.5	4.1
Reunification	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	58.6	68.2	40.0	43.2	46.1	56.6	56.0	52.5
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	13.8	9.1	32.0	15.9	19.6	18.5	16.6	18.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.8	0.0	8.0	4.5	8.1	5.5	2.9	4.7
Number	0	0	0	3	29	22	25	44	408	417	445	509

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.1	0.0	53.8	36.8	23.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	12.5	11.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.4	0.0	16.7	0.0	0.0
Reunification	60.0	100.0	62.5	38.9	42.9	15.4	36.8	23.1	68.0	16.7	0.0	<.1
Other	20.0	0.0	12.5	33.3	42.9	30.8	21.1	23.1	16.0	50.0	0.0	<.1
Missing data	20.0	0.0	12.5	5.6	14.3	0.0	5.3	15.4	16.0	16.7	0.0	<.1
Number	5	2	8	18	7	13	19	13	25	6	0	0

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	58.5	48.8	62.6	62.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	22.6	26.4	21.4	24.2
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	9.8	8.5	7.8	4.5
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	4.3	6.2	2.1	4.2
48 or more mos.	3.4	9.7	6.0	4.2
Missing data	1.3	0.4	0.0	0.6
Number	234	258	281	310

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	69.4	71.9	72.3	74.0
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	13.4	13.3	17.4	16.6
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	5.4	5.6	4.6	6.4
Missing data	11.8	9.2	5.7	2.9
Number	484	534	563	578

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	3.3	2.6	4.1	0.0
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	10.0	2.6	12.2	16.8
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	18.9	21.8	25.5	25.6
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	30.0	43.6	21.4	18.4
48 or more mos.	37.8	29.5	36.7	39.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	90	78	98	125

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	85.8	88.7	87.4	83.9	60.6	63.4	73.4	72.4	44.8	42.5	42.3	39.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	14.2	11.3	12.6	16.1	39.4	36.6	26.6	27.6	55.2	57.5	57.7	60.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	557	576	617	660	335	306	354	341	902	872	827	824	7	2	5	5

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	9.4	7.3	11.3	10.6
Institutions	0.3	0.0	0.9	0.9
Other settings	90.3	92.7	87.8	88.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	329	371	345	340

New Hampshire [STATE COMMENT]

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The following are New Hampshire's comments on the State data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2003: Report to Congress*.

Section D (Children Waiting for Adoption): The data show that in FY 2003, only 11 percent of the 177 children waiting to be adopted were reported to have a termination of parental rights. According to our data system (Bridges), of the 177 children waiting to be adopted, 129 (73 percent) now have parental rights terminated. The data for these 177 children indicate the following: (1) 47 children had termination dates during the AFCARS reporting period but it appears that these dates were entered after the AFCARS submission; 44 children had terminations dates prior to the AFCARS reporting period, but it appears that these dates were entered after the AFCARS submission; 38 children had termination dates occurring after the AFCARS reporting period. NH will revise the data entry cycle to improve timeliness.

Outcome measures 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3 (Exits to Permanency): There is a high percentage of children in FY 2003 who exited care to other than a permanent family (i.e., they did not exit to adoption, reunification, or guardianship). The Child Protection Administrator and the Data Management Group will research this issue to ensure that the data reflect current practice.

Outcome measure 4.2 (Re-entry into Foster Care): A trend is difficult to evaluate for this outcome as NH has made considerable improvement in data collection. For example, in 2000, 11.8 percent of children had missing data for this measure, compared to 2.9 percent in 2003. Interestingly, the percentage of children who are entering care for the first time (no reentries) increased from 69.4 percent in 2000 to 74 percent in 2003. Preliminary internal analysis of the first-time entry cohort from 2000 (child protection removals only) has found that only 6 percent of those children who entered care for the first time in 2000 have since re-entered care.

NH has also been working to evaluate children entering care for child protection separately from those entering for CHINS or delinquency. For child protection and shared cases,¹ the percentage of children re-entering within 12 months was 11.97 percent, closer to the national median. For juvenile justice and shared cases, the percent re-entering within 12 months was 35 percent (55 of 157 children). It is clear that youth in juvenile justice cases (a smaller proportion of the IV-E eligible children) have had considerable influence on this measure.

Data created internally from NCANDS and AFCARS files and used for public data may differ slightly from the Child Welfare publications due to file resubmission and/or ongoing system and/or data changes such as client merges, etc. Additionally, methods and syntax used to create internal DCYF data from the NCANDS and AFCARS files may differ slightly from the syntax used at ACF. This may create variance from the tables in the data book.

Outcome Measure 1.1 (Recurrence of Maltreatment): NH has concerns with the measurement of recurrence of maltreatment as it often is measuring concurrent findings, circumstances where several allegations are being investigated during the same time period. Also, the current design includes findings for maltreatment that was not disclosed until after a child was safe in foster care.

¹ NH includes dual involved children in both the CPS and Juvenile Justice data profiles.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of New Hampshire's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, 4.6 percent of the children in New Hampshire who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percent not only is less than the national median of 7.1 percent, but also represents an improvement in performance on the measure from 2000 to 2003 (-43.9 percent change.).

The relatively low percentage of children experiencing maltreatment recurrence in 2003 corresponds to a relatively low rate of child victims in 2003. In 2003, the rate of child maltreatment victims was 3.4 child victims per 1,000 children in the State population, which is lower than the national median of 10.6 child victims per 1,000 children in the population.

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

New Hampshire did not provide data for 2003 to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System to calculate outcome measure 2.1.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003, 75.9 percent of children exiting foster care in New Hampshire (measure 3.1) were discharged to a permanent home, which is less than the national median of 86.3 percent. Also in 2003, 69.6 percent of children exiting care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) were discharged to a permanent home, which is less than the national median of 79.5 percent. Furthermore, 63.2 percent of the children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home, which is less than the national median of 72.2 percent.

With regard to ensuring that children emancipated from foster care (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) do not spend most of their formative years in foster care, in 2003, 32.4 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4). Although this percent exceeds the national median of 29.6 percent, it represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (-28.9 percent change).

It is not possible to assess differences with regard to exits to permanency as a function of children's race or ethnicity (measure 3.5) because the majority of children exiting foster care in 2003 were White (non-Hispanic) (83.0 percent). However, the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the foster care population (3.9 percent) exceeded the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the State's child population (1.5 percent). In addition, the percent of Hispanic children in the foster care population (5.0 percent) exceeded the percent of these children in the State's child population (2.6 percent).

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, 62.3 percent of reunifications in New Hampshire occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1). Although this is less than the national median of 72.0 percent, it represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (+6.5 percent change). However, 8.4 percent of reunifications occurred after the child had been in foster care for at least 36 months, which is considerably more than the national median of 3.5 percent.

In 2003, 16.6 percent of the children entering foster care were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (measure 4.2), which far exceeds the national median of 9.5 percent. Change in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 cannot be assessed because of missing data in earlier years. Also in 2003, 6.4 percent of the children entering foster care were entering more than 12 months after a prior foster care episode. Consequently, 23.0 percent of all children entering foster care in New Hampshire in 2003 had been in foster care at a prior time.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2003, only 16.8 percent of finalized adoptions in New Hampshire occurred within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 5.1). Although this percent is less than the national median of 23.9 percent, it represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (+26.3 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, 83.9 percent of the children in foster care for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings (measure 6.1), which is about equal to the national median of 84.2 percent. However, also in 2003, 72.4 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months, experienced no more than two placement settings. This percent exceeds the national median for this measure of 59.1 percent.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 11.5 percent of the children entering foster care in New Hampshire who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage not only exceeds the national median of 8.3 percent, but also represents a decline in performance on the measure from 2000 to 2003 (+18.6 percent change).

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	2,090,874	2,107,840	2,118,151	2,131,617
Race/Ethnicity (%)¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
Asian	5.9	6.1	6.1	6.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	15.6	15.9	15.3	15.3
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	16.2	16.8	16.3	16.8
White (non-Hispanic)	59.4	59.3	60.5	59.8
Two or more races	2.3	1.8	1.6	1.7
% Child population in poverty	11.1	9.6	9.3	11.2

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	8,826	8,536	8,103	8,123
Children in foster care on 9/30	9,794	10,666	11,442	12,801
Children adopted	832	1,030	1,385	935

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	69,120	33.1 per 1,000	70,599	33.5 per 1,000	70,786	33.4 per 1,000	77,915	36.5 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	8,826	4.2 per 1,000	8,536	4.1 per 1,000	8,103	3.8 per 1,000	8,123	3.8 per 1,000
Child fatalities	38	1.8 per 100,000	35	1.7 per 100,000	22	1.0 per 100,000	34	1.6 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	15.8	15.2	14.6	13.9
1-5 years	26.7	26.3	26.6	27.8
6-10 years	29.7	29.7	28.3	27.3
11-15 years	22.4	23.3	24.0	24.6
16+ years	5.5	5.4	6.4	6.4
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	8,826	8,536	8,103	8,123

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.2
Asian	0.8	1.0	1.0	0.8
Black (non-Hispanic)	44.1	45.5	44.7	41.6
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	6.1	5.9	4.7	4.6
White (non-Hispanic)	36.0	33.0	35.1	36.6
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	12.8	14.5	14.2	16.3
Number	8,826	8,536	8,103	8,123

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	3.2	2.7	3.7	4.2
Medical neglect	14.4	14.1	13.1	12.5
Neglect	52.8	52.4	53.5	51.9
Physical abuse	24.7	25.3	24.1	25.6
Sexual abuse	8.9	8.9	9.2	9.3
Unknown/missing data	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	8,826	8,536	8,103	8,123

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	9,241	9,835	10,772	11,204	4,654	5,433	6,052	6,971	4,109	4,607	5,404	5,437	9,794	10,666	11,442	12,801
Median length of stay (months)	20.5	20.5	19.0	18.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12.6	13.1	13.5	11.9	20.8	19.2	18.0	17.4

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	6.7	6.4	7.4	7.5	20.9	21.8	20.9	20.1	6.0	6.3	5.6	5.7	6.3	7.4	7.4	7.4
1 year	7.9	7.4	7.2	7.8	5.4	5.7	6.0	6.0	5.8	6.1	6.3	6.4	7.4	7.1	7.8	8.2
2 years	7.0	7.3	6.8	6.7	4.3	4.3	4.8	5.3	5.6	6.0	7.1	6.6	7.3	6.8	6.6	7.1
3 years	5.7	6.6	6.0	5.7	4.0	3.8	4.5	4.7	4.8	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.6	6.0	5.7	5.7
4 years	5.3	5.2	5.5	4.9	3.9	3.4	3.6	4.1	5.1	5.1	5.7	5.3	5.2	5.6	5.0	4.9
5 years	5.2	4.7	4.5	4.6	3.4	3.7	3.8	4.2	4.6	3.9	4.6	4.2	4.7	4.5	4.6	4.8
6 years	5.2	5.2	4.6	4.4	3.7	3.9	3.4	3.6	3.5	4.0	3.7	4.0	5.0	4.6	4.3	4.5
7 years	5.0	4.8	5.0	4.2	3.5	3.4	3.8	3.6	4.0	3.9	4.0	3.8	4.8	4.9	4.3	4.1
8 years	4.8	5.1	4.8	4.8	3.5	3.9	3.4	3.5	3.7	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.9	4.6	4.7	3.9
9 years	4.8	4.8	5.1	4.5	3.6	4.3	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.8	4.4	3.5	4.7	5.1	4.4	4.4
10 years	4.7	4.7	4.8	5.1	3.2	3.6	4.1	3.8	3.2	4.4	3.7	3.7	4.6	4.7	5.1	4.6
11 years	4.3	4.8	4.8	4.8	3.5	4.0	3.9	4.1	2.8	3.5	3.8	3.7	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.9
12 years	4.5	4.6	4.7	4.9	4.2	3.9	4.3	4.4	3.6	3.5	3.8	3.5	4.5	4.7	4.9	5.0
13 years	4.7	4.9	5.0	5.1	5.4	5.2	5.1	5.1	3.8	4.1	3.8	4.3	4.9	5.1	5.1	5.2
14 years	5.2	5.4	5.2	5.6	6.8	5.6	6.7	6.3	5.4	4.7	5.3	5.4	5.5	5.2	5.6	5.5
15 years	5.3	5.4	6.1	5.9	7.7	7.8	6.8	6.4	7.1	6.1	6.1	6.2	5.6	6.0	6.0	5.9
16 years	6.2	5.2	5.8	5.9	7.1	6.3	6.3	6.4	8.0	7.1	6.7	6.9	5.4	6.0	6.0	6.0
17 years	4.9	5.3	4.5	5.4	5.1	4.5	4.4	4.1	8.2	6.7	6.4	6.8	5.6	4.7	5.5	5.4
18 years	1.8	1.6	1.7	1.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	8.0	8.1	6.7	7.7	1.6	1.8	1.7	1.7
19 years	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	2.1	1.5	1.5	1.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5
20 years	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
Missing data	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.2	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.2	<.1	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1
Asian	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	63.2	63.1	62.4	62.1	53.3	54.4	53.0	50.3	53.2	55.0	53.8	50.7	62.7	62.2	61.5	60.5
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	8.3	7.6	7.2	6.7	7.6	6.2	6.2	6.4	9.0	7.7	7.8	7.0	7.6	6.8	6.3	6.4
White (non-Hispanic)	22.4	22.2	22.5	22.7	28.0	28.1	27.7	30.2	28.5	27.2	27.1	29.9	22.5	23.1	23.1	23.7
Two or more races	1.3	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.3	1.1	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.6	1.8	1.2	1.4	1.8	1.7
Unknown	4.3	5.0	5.7	6.2	9.1	9.6	10.5	11.0	7.0	8.2	8.9	10.0	5.4	6.0	6.7	7.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	4,852	5,174	5,073	5,236
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	3,916	3,654	2,840	2,892

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	3.9	5.9	8.2	8.2
1 year	8.3	8.7	11.0	11.5
2 years	10.2	9.5	9.7	10.3
3 years	9.1	8.7	8.6	8.3
4 years	6.8	7.9	7.1	7.3
5 years	6.6	6.4	6.3	5.9
6 years	6.7	6.2	5.7	6.1
7 years	6.4	6.1	5.5	5.3
8 years	6.3	6.0	5.8	4.7
9 years	5.5	6.3	5.2	5.3
10 years	5.4	5.1	5.7	5.1
11 years	5.3	4.9	4.6	4.9
12 years	4.4	4.6	3.9	4.3
13 years	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.3
14 years	3.3	2.7	3.1	3.3
15 years	2.7	2.8	2.3	2.6
16 years	2.3	2.4	1.7	1.6
17 years	2.1	1.5	1.4	1.4
18 years	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.4
19 years	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2
20+ years	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.5	0.3	0.2	<.1
Asian	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	69.2	68.7	66.3	65.6
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	7.2	6.6	6.5	6.5
White (non-Hispanic)	17.6	17.7	18.6	18.9
Two or more races	1.6	2.0	2.6	2.6
Unknown	3.7	4.4	5.7	6.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	832	1,030	1,385	935

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	0.7	1.0	1.1	0.9
1 year	7.6	8.7	7.5	8.3
2 years	13.7	12.9	13.4	14.0
3 years	12.9	15.0	13.3	16.4
4 years	12.9	12.5	12.6	10.6
5 years	10.6	7.4	10.0	8.1
6 years	8.1	7.9	5.9	7.9
7 years	6.7	6.9	7.3	7.1
8 years	5.0	6.1	5.1	6.6
9 years	4.8	4.9	5.6	4.1
10 years	5.3	4.4	5.1	5.6
11 years	3.8	4.2	4.0	2.9
12 years	2.6	3.1	3.7	2.4
13 years	1.7	2.0	2.3	1.2
14 years	1.1	1.3	1.5	1.8
15 years	0.8	1.0	0.7	1.4
16 years	0.8	0.6	0.3	0.3
17 years	0.5	0.0	0.6	0.4
18 years	0.4	<.1	0.0	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.1
Asian	0.0	0.3	<.1	0.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	65.5	66.1	64.3	59.6
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	6.7	6.6	7.0	7.0
White (non-Hispanic)	22.2	21.0	20.7	22.2
Two or more races	3.0	2.0	3.2	3.0
Unknown	2.0	3.5	4.4	8.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

New Jersey [OUTCOMES DATA]

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	94.2	93.7	93.1	94.4
Children with one or more recurrences	5.8	6.3	6.9	5.6
Number	4,346	4,344	4,081	3,815

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	1.30	0.59	0.69	0.69
Children not maltreated while in foster care	98.70	99.41	99.31	99.31
Number	12,997	14,294	15,705	17,051

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	16.3	19.6	25.1	16.7
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	71.3	69.8	64.8	68.5
Other	12.4	10.4	9.3	10.2
Missing data	<.1	0.2	0.8	4.6
Number	4,109	4,607	5,404	5,437

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	30.9	39.1	43.3	35.5
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	52.4	50.3	46.5	51.6
Other	16.8	10.5	10.0	11.3
Missing data	0.0	0.1	0.3	1.6
Number	758	867	1,033	941

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.3
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	73.1	74.2	75.9	72.8
Other	26.6	25.3	23.2	24.8
Missing data	0.0	0.3	0.5	2.1
Number	1,408	1,394	1,606	1,675

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	30.0	28.0	26.9	25.9
Children older than 12 at entry	70.0	71.6	73.1	72.6
Missing data	0.0	0.3	0.0	1.5
Number	307	289	290	328

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/American Indian				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	10.5	33.3	20.0	8.3	0.0	14.3	7.7	3.8	19.2	22.3	29.8	19.7
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	84.2	66.7	70.0	75.0	93.3	71.4	65.4	76.9	68.3	67.0	59.8	65.2
Other	5.3	0.0	10.0	16.7	6.7	14.3	26.9	15.4	12.5	10.5	9.4	10.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.8	<.1	0.3	1.0	4.8
Number	19	15	10	12	15	7	26	26	2,186	2,533	2,909	2,754

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	11.4	16.0	23.3	16.2	14.8	16.8	19.2	12.5
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	74.3	73.3	65.1	65.4	72.2	71.1	71.2	72.8
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.3	10.7	10.9	14.9	13.0	11.9	9.4	10.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	3.4	0.0	0.2	0.3	4.7
Number	0	0	1	0	370	356	421	382	1,170	1,251	1,465	1,624

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	4.5	10.5	12.7	12.8	32.3	36.9	49.4	27.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	87.1	82.1	78.6	75.2	59.7	61.5	49.4	64.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	8.4	7.1	7.5	7.6	8.1	1.5	1.1	3.1	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.3	1.2	4.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	287	380	482	541	62	65	89	98	0	0	1	0

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	60.3	59.5	63.5	62.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	18.9	17.6	20.1	19.5
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	7.4	8.3	6.5	6.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	3.6	4.0	2.6	3.5
48 or more mos.	7.7	7.6	4.9	4.8
Missing data	2.1	3.0	2.4	3.5
Number	2,929	3,215	3,504	3,727

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	77.1	81.6	81.0	83.4
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	11.3	7.9	8.2	7.8
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	9.9	8.4	9.0	7.4
Missing data	1.7	2.1	1.9	1.4
Number	4,654	5,433	6,052	6,971

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	3.3	3.7	3.8	3.8
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	11.0	12.7	13.1	17.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	19.0	20.8	22.5	22.6
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	22.1	20.3	21.2	21.4
48 or more mos.	43.0	41.6	38.4	33.4
Missing data	1.6	1.0	0.9	0.9
Number	670	901	1,356	906

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	85.6	86.2	85.1	83.1	67.3	68.6	69.0	60.4	49.1	48.9	47.8	44.6	97.1	96.4	89.0	99.1
Children with 3 or more placements	12.5	12.1	13.6	15.9	29.6	29.0	29.0	38.4	48.2	48.2	49.4	52.9	0.0	0.9	0.9	0.9
Number	5,286	5,995	6,762	7,732	2,739	2,975	3,474	3,755	5,800	6,186	6,479	6,575	70	112	109	114

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	4.1	4.5	3.5	3.1
Institutions	7.2	5.5	5.1	4.1
Other settings	88.3	89.2	91.2	92.6
Missing data	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.1
Number	3,018	3,694	4,111	4,855

New Jersey [STATE COMMENT]

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of New Jersey's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, 5.6 percent of the children in New Jersey who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percent is less than the national median of 7.1 percent. There was no change in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003.

New Jersey's relatively low percentage of children who were victims of maltreatment recurrence in 2003 corresponds to a relatively low child victim rate in 2003. In 2003, the rate of child maltreatment victims was 3.8 child victims per 1,000 children in the State population, which is less than the national median of 10.6 child victims per 1,000 children in the population.

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

In 2003, 0.69 percent of the children in foster care in New Jersey were found to be maltreated by a foster parent or facility staff member (measure 2.1). Although this percent exceeds the national median of 0.39 percent, it represents an improvement in performance on the measure from 2000 to 2003 (-46.9 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003, 85.2 percent of children exiting foster care (measure 3.1) were discharged to a permanent home, which is close to the national median of 86.3 percent. In addition, 73.1 percent of the children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home, which is about equal to the national median of 72.2 percent. However, 85.2 percent of children exiting foster care in 2003 who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) were discharged to a permanent home, which exceeds the national median of 79.5 percent.

In 2003, 25.9 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4). Although this percent is less than the national median of 29.6 percent, it represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (-13.7 percent change).

An additional finding is that many children who exit foster care at age 18 or older have a discharge reason other than emancipation. In 2003, for example, 511 of the children exiting foster care were age 18 or older at the time of exit. However, only 328 children exiting foster care had a discharge reason of emancipation.

There were no real differences with regard to exits to permanency as a function of children's race or ethnicity (measure 3.5). (This was assessed only when a particular race or ethnicity accounted for at least 10 percent of the exits from foster care.) White (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care were as likely to be discharged to a permanent home (85.3 percent) as were Black (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care (84.9 percent). However, for almost 10 percent of the children exiting foster care in 2003, the race was reported as "Unable to Determine." Also, the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the foster care population (60.5) was almost four times the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the State's child population (15.3 percent).

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, 62.5 percent of reunifications in New Jersey occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1), which is less than the national median of 72.0 percent. Performance with regard to this measure did not change from 2000 to 2003. In addition, 8.3 percent of reunifications occurred after the child had been in foster care for at least 36 months, which exceeds the national median of 3.5 percent.

Although New Jersey had a relatively low percentage of reunifications occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care, the State also had a relatively low percentage of re-entries into foster care within 12 months of a prior episode. In 2003, 7.8 percent of the children entering foster care were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (measure 4.2). This percent not only is less than the national median of 9.5 percent, but also represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (-31.0 percent change). In addition, only 7.4 percent of the children entering foster care were entering more than 12 months after a prior foster care episode. Consequently, 15.2 percent of all children entering foster care in 2003 had been in foster care at a prior time.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2003, 21.7 percent of finalized adoptions in New Jersey occurred within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 5.1). Although this percent is less than the national median of 23.9 percent, it represents a substantial improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (+51.7 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, 83.1 percent of the children in foster care in New Jersey who were in care for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings (measure 6.1), which is slightly less than the national median of 84.2 percent. Also in 2003, 60.4 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months, experienced no more than two placement settings, which is about equal to the national median of 59.1 percent.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 7.2 percent of the children entering foster care in New Jersey who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage not only is less than the national median of 8.3 percent, but also represents an improvement in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (-36.3 percent change).

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	506,687	500,834	502,288	502,034
Race/Ethnicity (%)¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	11.7	11.7	11.6	11.6
Asian	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9
Black (non-Hispanic)	1.7	1.9	1.7	1.7
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	50.9	50.8	50.1	50.2
White (non-Hispanic)	32.5	32.9	34.0	33.8
Two or more races	2.1	1.6	1.6	1.6
% Child population in poverty	23.5	25.4	24.4	26.9

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	6,288	6,929	6,273	6,238
Children in foster care on 9/30	1,912	1,757	1,885	2,127
Children adopted	347	369	275	220

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	20,956	41.4 per 1,000	23,314	46.5 per 1,000	22,997	45.8 per 1,000	25,259	50.3 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	6,288	12.4 per 1,000	6,929	13.8 per 1,000	6,273	12.5 per 1,000	6,238	12.4 per 1,000
Child fatalities	6	1.2 per 100,000	5	1.0 per 100,000	4	0.8 per 100,000	4	0.8 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	7.5	8.0	8.1	9.0
1-5 years	25.6	25.7	27.1	26.8
6-10 years	30.4	30.8	29.7	28.6
11-15 years	25.5	24.0	25.1	24.7
16+ years	4.8	4.9	5.0	5.0
Unknown	6.1	6.5	5.1	5.9
Number	6,288	6,929	6,273	6,238

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	10.4	10.5	9.3	8.0
Asian	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	3.0	3.0	3.1	2.7
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	48.2	46.5	47.2	46.6
White (non-Hispanic)	30.4	29.1	28.4	28.8
Two or more races	1.5	1.7	1.9	1.8
Unknown	6.2	8.9	9.9	11.8
Number	6,288	6,929	6,273	6,238

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	6.6	6.9	3.9	5.5
Medical neglect	2.3	1.9	2.4	2.4
Neglect	63.4	64.5	67.7	67.6
Physical abuse	33.5	32.1	33.9	32.2
Sexual abuse	6.0	6.6	6.1	6.2
Unknown/missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	6,288	6,929	6,273	6,238

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	1,731	1,613	1,441	1,534	1,780	1,887	1,968	1,928	1,716	1,754	1,606	1,412	1,912	1,757	1,885	2,127
Median length of stay (months)	18.2	16.5	15.1	12.9	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	17.5	15.7	12.1	12.1

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	4.2	4.0	4.4	5.0	11.5	11.8	12.0	13.6	6.9	6.9	7.0	6.7	4.0	4.2	5.3	6.2
1 year	5.4	5.8	6.0	7.2	7.5	6.8	8.5	8.1	7.4	6.6	7.7	8.4	5.6	5.9	6.8	7.0
2 years	4.5	5.1	5.1	5.7	6.6	6.8	7.8	6.9	6.6	6.8	7.7	7.6	5.5	5.4	6.0	7.1
3 years	6.4	4.3	5.8	6.1	6.0	7.0	7.8	7.4	6.2	7.2	8.4	7.9	4.1	5.5	6.2	5.7
4 years	5.9	5.1	4.6	5.9	5.6	5.8	5.3	6.1	6.7	6.2	6.1	6.3	5.3	4.8	5.6	6.0
5 years	5.5	4.4	4.0	4.4	5.3	6.5	5.7	6.0	6.5	6.1	5.9	5.9	4.5	4.6	4.3	5.6
6 years	6.9	5.3	4.4	3.5	5.6	6.0	4.8	4.9	6.4	7.0	5.4	4.5	5.5	4.5	3.7	4.8
7 years	7.2	6.0	5.1	4.7	5.5	5.4	5.1	4.9	6.5	6.0	4.8	5.8	5.9	4.7	4.3	3.9
8 years	6.2	6.9	5.6	5.0	5.7	6.1	5.4	4.6	5.2	6.6	5.3	5.5	6.7	5.2	4.9	4.0
9 years	5.6	6.9	6.0	5.2	5.8	5.0	4.9	4.5	6.1	6.3	6.4	5.8	6.6	6.0	5.1	4.0
10 years	5.5	5.7	6.5	5.4	5.6	5.4	4.6	4.9	5.2	6.5	5.4	5.1	5.4	6.0	5.0	4.7
11 years	5.3	6.6	5.2	5.8	5.6	5.8	4.9	4.3	5.1	5.3	5.5	4.2	6.3	4.8	5.5	5.0
12 years	5.3	5.5	7.6	5.0	3.9	5.4	4.7	4.9	4.0	4.8	5.7	4.7	5.0	6.9	4.6	5.6
13 years	6.5	6.0	6.5	6.7	5.1	4.1	4.9	4.8	5.1	3.5	5.3	4.8	5.5	5.9	6.3	4.8
14 years	5.6	6.3	6.9	7.3	4.6	4.2	3.8	4.3	4.8	4.7	3.5	4.4	6.0	6.2	6.6	6.0
15 years	5.5	5.9	6.7	6.1	4.8	3.1	4.2	4.3	4.5	3.4	4.1	4.6	5.4	5.9	5.6	6.6
16 years	5.2	6.5	5.6	7.0	3.5	3.1	3.6	3.5	3.3	3.5	3.4	4.0	6.0	5.1	6.3	5.4
17 years	3.2	3.8	4.0	3.9	1.8	1.6	2.0	2.1	2.3	1.8	1.9	3.4	5.2	5.7	5.3	5.7
18 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2	0.9	0.6	0.6	1.5	2.8	2.6	1.7
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	6.5	7.4	9.2	9.9	9.7	16.1	11.8	9.1	10.8	14.9	13.4	11.9	6.6	9.2	9.1	7.5
Asian	0.3	0.2	0.0	<.1	0.1	0.4	0.2	<.1	0.1	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.3	<.1	<.1	<.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	7.7	7.3	6.5	6.1	4.8	3.2	3.6	3.0	5.5	3.2	3.7	3.5	6.5	6.9	5.8	5.0
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	<.1	0.2	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.1	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	55.2	53.8	55.4	54.0	49.3	47.0	45.9	46.4	48.7	45.7	45.8	46.0	54.7	54.5	52.5	52.0
White (non-Hispanic)	28.9	29.6	26.3	27.0	32.6	27.9	30.5	31.7	31.4	30.8	28.9	29.7	30.2	26.6	28.2	29.8
Two or more races	1.0	1.6	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.9	2.2	2.1	1.8	2.3	1.9	1.8	1.5	2.2	2.6	2.4
Unknown	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.5	1.0	2.2	3.6	3.0	1.5	2.2	3.5	3.0	0.2	0.4	1.2	1.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.2	0.1	2.1	4.6	0.2	<.1	2.5	3.6	<.1	<.1	0.4	1.9

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	822	668	514	580
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	22	14	8	4

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	1.8	1.9	2.1	3.1
1 year	5.6	7.5	7.6	6.4
2 years	6.3	5.5	6.2	7.2
3 years	5.4	5.1	4.5	5.7
4 years	6.8	5.1	7.0	7.2
5 years	6.6	5.5	4.3	6.7
6 years	6.2	6.0	4.1	4.7
7 years	7.3	6.9	5.1	3.4
8 years	9.0	7.6	7.8	5.7
9 years	8.4	9.0	6.4	6.0
10 years	6.2	8.1	8.2	6.9
11 years	7.4	5.2	8.0	6.9
12 years	6.7	8.4	6.4	8.1
13 years	6.7	6.3	8.2	6.0
14 years	5.2	6.0	6.8	7.6
15 years	2.8	3.9	4.9	5.9
16 years	1.3	1.6	2.3	2.4
17 years	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.0
18 years	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	6.1	7.0	9.9	6.9
Asian	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	7.9	8.7	7.8	6.4
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3
Hispanic (of any race)	56.2	57.2	54.5	56.9
White (non-Hispanic)	28.0	24.6	24.3	26.9
Two or more races	1.6	2.5	3.5	2.1
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	347	369	275	220

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	1.4	0.5	1.1	6.4
1 year	6.1	6.8	9.5	7.7
2 years	9.5	8.9	11.3	10.0
3 years	9.2	8.7	9.5	10.0
4 years	11.8	6.2	8.4	5.0
5 years	10.1	6.8	8.0	4.5
6 years	6.3	10.3	6.9	5.9
7 years	9.5	6.8	2.5	5.0
8 years	7.8	8.9	7.6	4.5
9 years	8.9	8.9	7.3	8.6
10 years	5.5	7.6	8.4	7.3
11 years	3.5	4.1	4.7	3.6
12 years	2.6	6.0	3.3	4.1
13 years	3.7	4.1	3.3	4.5
14 years	2.0	1.4	3.3	5.5
15 years	1.7	1.4	3.6	3.2
16 years	0.3	2.4	0.7	2.7
17 years	0.0	0.3	0.7	1.4
18 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.6	3.5	3.3	8.6
Asian	3.7	0.3	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	4.3	5.7	7.3	6.4
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	59.1	55.8	55.6	53.2
White (non-Hispanic)	30.3	33.6	30.2	29.5
Two or more races	1.7	1.1	3.6	1.8
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

New Mexico [OUTCOMES DATA]

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	91.5	92.3	93.1	92.4
Children with one or more recurrences	8.5	7.7	6.9	7.6
Number	2,986	2,891	2,889	2,883

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	<.1	1.53	1.52
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	99.94	98.47	98.48
Number	—	3,083	3,015	3,148

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	14.1	15.7	16.2	16.2
Guardianship	4.2	2.5	2.9	3.8
Reunification	74.7	73.1	67.7	69.6
Other	6.0	7.6	6.2	4.8
Missing data	1.0	1.0	6.9	5.5
Number	1,716	1,754	1,606	1,412

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	21.1	30.8	19.4	31.3
Guardianship	3.0	4.8	7.1	3.8
Reunification	69.9	54.8	53.1	46.3
Other	6.0	5.8	12.2	15.0
Missing data	0.0	3.8	8.2	3.8
Number	133	104	98	80

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	1.8	1.9	1.2	0.5
Guardianship	3.5	3.0	2.5	4.5
Reunification	77.1	76.3	79.4	79.1
Other	16.9	17.4	11.9	11.8
Missing data	0.7	1.5	4.9	4.1
Number	284	270	243	220

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	0.0	0.0	9.1	50.0
Children older than 12 at entry	100.0	100.0	90.9	50.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	26	13	11	22

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	8.6	6.5	7.4	11.9	0.0	11.1	0.0	66.7	18.9	28.1	28.8	36.0
Guardianship	3.8	1.9	0.9	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.2	0.0	0.0	2.0
Reunification	65.9	69.1	63.7	54.2	50.0	77.8	100.0	33.3	68.4	66.7	62.7	56.0
Other	21.1	22.5	22.3	11.3	50.0	11.1	0.0	0.0	8.4	5.3	3.4	6.0
Missing data	0.5	0.0	5.6	19.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.1	0.0
Number	185	262	215	168	2	9	3	3	95	57	59	50

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.0	19.7	20.5	19.7	13.8	14.6	14.4	13.8
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.7	3.0	4.1	5.1	4.1	2.4	3.0	2.6
Reunification	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	74.6	73.1	63.6	68.2	77.0	75.6	73.5	74.5
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.9	3.1	2.7	3.1	3.3	6.5	3.7	5.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	1.1	9.1	4.0	1.9	0.9	5.4	4.0
Number	1	3	1	1	836	802	736	650	538	541	464	420

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	2.6	1.8	0.0	0.0	9.8	25.8	11.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	0.0	5.3	0.0	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.5	0.0	0.0	2.5	0.0
Reunification	100.0	78.9	82.5	95.3	87.1	68.3	58.1	73.1	100.0	100.0	90.0	90.2
Other	0.0	13.2	14.0	2.3	12.9	14.6	9.7	3.8	0.0	0.0	5.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	1.8	0.0	0.0	7.3	6.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.5	0.0
Number	25	38	57	43	31	41	31	26	3	1	40	51

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	81.8	90.1	90.5	86.6
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	5.5	5.7	3.7	4.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	2.0	0.3	0.2	0.7
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	0.2	0.5	<.1	0.3
48 or more mos.	<.1	0.2	0.0	0.7
Missing data	10.4	3.2	5.5	6.8
Number	1,282	1,283	1,088	983

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	86.9	86.1	84.8	85.6
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	8.7	8.4	9.5	8.4
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	2.2	4.7	5.0	5.9
Missing data	2.2	0.8	0.8	0.2
Number	1,780	1,887	1,968	1,928

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	2.9	1.4	2.3	6.1
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	16.9	25.4	30.4	27.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	67.4	32.6	29.6	28.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	6.6	33.7	12.3	11.8
48 or more mos.	0.0	3.6	18.8	20.5
Missing data	6.2	3.3	6.5	5.2
Number	242	276	260	229

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	95.6	88.0	87.5	87.4	99.6	58.0	51.7	56.3	99.8	49.3	43.7	40.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	4.4	12.0	12.5	12.6	0.4	42.0	48.3	43.7	0.2	50.7	56.3	59.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,946	2,001	2,109	2,035	478	579	511	682	1,036	869	765	724	51	51	24	21

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	12.2	15.6	10.4	9.7
Institutions	2.1	3.2	2.6	2.2
Other settings	85.8	81.2	87.0	88.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,411	1,567	1,597	1,552

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The following are New Mexico's comments on the State's data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2003: Report to Congress*.

New Mexico has unique practices to harmonize the requirements of state law and federal mandates, while serving diverse communities that are not only rural, but also involve urban settings, as well. New Mexico's population requires us to address needs specific to multicultural populations, as well as sovereignty issues with Tribal governments.

Section C (Children in Foster Care): New Mexico is monitoring the issue of the difference of 351 children (dropped cases) and has made changes in its mapping and online applications to minimize the occurrence of similar situations in the future. AFCARS resubmitted data reflects these changes as of FFY 2004.

Section D (Children Waiting to be Adopted): New Mexico has experienced some issues in entering information regarding termination of parental rights in the SACWIS system over the years. An online modification has been made in the current SACWIS' system, and the information is now being collected in a timely and responsive manner. Additionally, TPR dates for mother and father have been "under-reported" historically by AFCARS for NM due to the inability of the SACWIS system to capture termination dates for parents when the termination of parental rights occurred thru the following events: 1) relinquishment of parent, 2) father with no protected liberty interest and 3) mother or father deceased. There was also a mapping issue for terminations, which is being corrected so that data are being collected from the CCA legal status entries. FACTS Release 3.4.0 (implemented June 2005) also provided a summary "Child Freed" window where attorneys or workers can view the data recorded in legal status windows without having to open each screen. Mapping changes for AFCARS submittals are anticipated to be completed by October 1, 2005. NM will resubmit AFCARS data retro to FFY 2004 after mapping changes are implemented. A change request is now being processed to produce a report to allow CCA's to enter missing data. The TPR dates for mother and father from the AFCARS adoption file are reliable, but reflect only those children who have been adopted, not children who have been freed for adoption.

Outcome Measure 2.1 (Maltreatment in Foster Care): New Mexico has identified enhancements to its SACWIS system in the online mode and will be making modifications to its NCANDS mapping to more accurately capture this data.

Outcome Measure 3.4 (Exits to Emancipation): The number associated with this outcome is relatively small; however New Mexico is now aggressively monitoring the number of children being emancipated from foster care and has seen a marked reduction in numbers subsequent to this reporting period.

Outcome Measure 5.1 (Time to Adoption): Subsequent to this reporting period, New Mexico has engaged in significant efforts to reduce the percentage of adoptions with children in foster care for periods of time greater than 48 months. It is anticipated that in the future, data will reflect a more positive trend because of improvements in capturing relevant data and persistent monitoring on the part of NM.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of New Mexico's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, 7.6 percent of the children in New Mexico who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). Although this percent is about equal to the national median of 7.1 percent, it represents an improvement in performance from 2000 (-10.6 percent change).

In 2003, the rate of child maltreatment victims in New Mexico was 12.4 child victims per 1,000 children in the State population, which is higher than the national median of 10.6 child victims per 1,000 children in the population. This rate did not change from 2000 to 2003.

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

In 2003, 1.54 percent of the children in foster care in New Mexico were found to be maltreated by a foster parent or facility staff member (measure 2.1). Change in performance on this measure is difficult to assess because of potential data quality issues in 2000 and 2001.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003, 89.6 percent of children exiting foster care in New Mexico (measure 3.1) were discharged to a permanent home, which exceeds the national median of 86.3 percent. Also, 81.4 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) were discharged to a permanent home, which exceeds the national median of 79.5 percent. Furthermore, 84.1 percent of the children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home, which also exceeds the national median of 72.2 percent.

In 2003, 50.0 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4). This percent not only exceeds the national median of 29.6 percent, but also represents a decline in performance from 2000, when none of the children exiting to emancipation entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger. These data are difficult to interpret because New Mexico has very few children exiting to emancipation (22) and only eight children exiting foster care were age 18 or older at the time of exit.

There were no real differences with regard to exits to permanency as a function of children's race or ethnicity (measure 3.5). (This was assessed only when a particular race or ethnicity accounted for at least 10 percent of the exits from foster care.) White (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care were as likely to be discharged to a permanent home (90.9 percent) as were Hispanic children exiting foster care (93.0 percent).

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, 86.6 percent of reunifications in New Mexico occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1). Although this percent exceeds the national median of 72.0 percent, it represents a slight decline in performance from 2000 (-5.9 percent change). Also in 2003, 1.0 percent of reunifications occurred after the child had been in foster care for at least 36 months, which is less than the national median of 3.5 percent.

With regard to re-entries into foster care, in 2003, 8.4 percent of the children entering foster care were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (measure 4.2), which is less than the national median of 9.5 percent. There was no change in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003. In addition, only 5.9 percent of the children entering foster care were re-entering more than 12 months after a prior foster care episode. Consequently, only 14.3 percent of all children entering foster care in 2003 had been in foster care at a prior time.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2003, 34.0 percent of finalized adoptions in New Mexico occurred within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 5.1). This percent not only exceeds the national median of 23.9 percent, but represents an improvement in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (+71.8 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, 87.4 percent of the children in foster care in New Mexico who were in care for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings (measure 6.1), which exceeds the national median of 84.2 percent. However, in that year, 56.3 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months, experienced no more than two placement settings, which is less than the national median of 59.1 percent. There was a 31.1 percent decline in placement stability for children in foster care from 12 to 24 months compared to children in foster care for less than 12 months.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 11.9 percent of the children entering foster care who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). Although this percent exceeds the national median of 8.3 percent, it represents an improvement in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (-16.8 percent change).

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	4,683,714	4,633,310	4,576,823	4,532,748
Race/Ethnicity (%)¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3
Asian	5.0	5.4	5.5	5.7
Black (non-Hispanic)	17.8	18.2	17.7	17.7
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	19.0	19.6	19.0	19.5
White (non-Hispanic)	54.6	54.6	55.8	55.0
Two or more races	2.6	1.9	1.7	1.7
% Child population in poverty	19.0	20.0	20.5	19.9

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	74,065	77,860	79,049	75,784
Children in foster care on 9/30	47,118	43,365	40,753	37,067
Children adopted	4,234	3,935	3,791	3,862

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	230,449	49.2 per 1,000	251,164	54.2 per 1,000	262,643	57.4 per 1,000	253,866	56.0 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	74,065	15.8 per 1,000	77,860	16.8 per 1,000	79,049	17.3 per 1,000	75,784	16.7 per 1,000
Child fatalities	79	1.7 per 100,000	78	1.7 per 100,000	68	1.5 per 100,000	62	1.4 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	9.1	8.8	8.3	8.3
1-5 years	27.4	27.7	27.3	27.3
6-10 years	30.6	30.8	29.3	28.8
11-15 years	27.0	27.1	28.5	28.9
16+ years	5.8	5.6	6.4	6.7
Unknown	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Number	74,065	77,860	79,049	75,784

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3
Asian	0.8	0.8	0.4	0.8
Black (non-Hispanic)	32.3	31.3	29.0	27.5
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	18.0	18.4	18.9	18.5
White (non-Hispanic)	41.5	42.2	41.2	41.0
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	2.6	2.0
Unknown	7.1	6.8	7.4	9.7
Number	74,065	77,860	79,049	75,784

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.9
Medical neglect	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.6
Neglect	89.5	90.0	90.1	90.4
Physical abuse	13.9	13.0	12.9	12.8
Sexual abuse	4.1	3.8	4.0	4.0
Unknown/missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	22.8	24.3	24.5	25.1
Number	74,065	77,860	79,049	75,784

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	50,843	46,928	43,228	40,322	16,605	15,135	15,432	13,598	20,337	18,703	17,970	16,905	47,118	43,365	40,753	37,067
Median length of stay (months)	28.6	30.3	30.3	28.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	22.4	23.3	21.7	22.6	29.9	30.9	28.5	28.0

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	3.4	3.1	2.9	2.9	14.8	14.0	13.4	13.1	3.0	3.1	3.2	2.7	3.2	2.9	2.9	2.9
1 year	4.9	4.7	4.4	4.2	5.7	5.5	5.1	4.9	3.5	3.5	3.2	3.2	4.7	4.4	4.2	4.1
2 years	5.4	5.3	5.0	4.7	4.5	4.6	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.8	4.4	4.0	5.3	5.1	4.7	4.5
3 years	5.2	5.4	4.9	4.9	4.1	4.3	4.2	3.8	4.6	5.3	4.9	4.8	5.4	5.0	4.9	4.6
4 years	5.3	5.0	4.9	4.7	4.0	3.8	3.7	3.4	4.7	5.0	4.5	4.5	5.0	5.0	4.7	4.6
5 years	5.4	4.9	4.6	4.5	3.8	3.6	3.8	3.6	4.9	4.6	4.3	4.4	4.9	4.7	4.6	4.2
6 years	5.4	5.1	4.6	4.5	4.1	4.2	3.7	3.3	5.1	4.6	4.2	4.2	5.1	4.7	4.5	4.2
7 years	5.5	5.2	4.9	4.4	4.2	4.2	3.7	3.4	4.9	4.7	4.3	4.1	5.2	5.0	4.4	4.2
8 years	5.5	5.3	4.9	4.7	3.8	4.1	3.8	3.3	4.7	4.7	4.2	4.1	5.4	5.0	4.7	4.1
9 years	5.5	5.3	4.9	4.8	4.0	3.8	3.9	3.6	4.9	4.8	4.3	4.4	5.3	5.1	4.8	4.4
10 years	5.2	5.2	4.9	4.8	3.8	3.5	3.8	3.4	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.1	5.2	5.0	4.8	4.6
11 years	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.8	3.9	4.2	4.0	3.7	4.4	4.5	4.2	3.9	5.0	5.0	4.8	4.7
12 years	5.0	4.9	5.1	5.0	4.9	5.0	5.2	4.8	4.3	4.4	4.6	4.0	5.0	5.2	5.0	4.9
13 years	5.1	5.4	5.4	5.5	6.7	7.0	7.3	7.4	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.9	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.7
14 years	5.4	5.8	6.3	6.4	9.3	9.1	9.6	10.0	5.7	5.8	6.3	6.2	5.9	6.3	6.5	6.7
15 years	6.1	6.5	7.1	7.5	11.1	11.0	11.3	12.4	7.6	7.5	7.5	7.8	6.6	7.0	7.6	7.8
16 years	5.9	6.0	7.0	7.4	5.1	5.7	6.4	8.3	8.3	7.9	8.6	9.0	6.1	6.7	7.4	8.4
17 years	4.7	4.8	5.2	5.9	1.9	2.1	2.4	3.1	5.5	5.1	6.2	6.7	4.6	4.9	5.9	6.6
18 years	2.9	3.2	3.6	3.6	0.1	0.1	0.2	<.1	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.6	3.0	3.4	3.5	4.1
19 years	1.9	2.1	2.6	2.6	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	1.9	1.7	2.2	2.2	2.0	2.4	2.6	2.6
20 years	1.4	1.6	1.8	2.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	2.9	3.3	4.9	5.3	1.4	1.7	1.9	2.0
Missing data	<.1	0.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	1.2	1.2	0.4	0.5	<.1	0.2	<.1	<.1

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4
Black (non-Hispanic)	44.9	44.6	46.6	47.5	38.8	43.0	44.7	41.9	40.3	40.9	42.0	43.5	44.7	45.7	47.9	47.2
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	15.3	15.7	16.9	17.8	15.8	19.7	19.9	20.5	14.7	17.0	17.5	17.6	15.7	16.5	17.7	18.9
White (non-Hispanic)	13.9	15.0	16.5	17.5	25.0	27.7	26.8	27.8	20.3	21.5	22.2	23.3	15.1	16.6	17.8	18.6
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	25.4	24.1	19.5	16.6	19.4	8.5	7.5	8.9	23.9	19.8	17.4	14.8	24.0	20.5	15.9	14.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	15,833	14,635	13,926	12,742
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	8,068	7,630	7,806	7,299

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7
1 year	3.7	3.3	3.3	3.6
2 years	6.3	6.2	5.8	5.7
3 years	6.9	6.8	6.6	6.4
4 years	6.8	6.9	6.6	6.5
5 years	6.7	6.7	6.9	6.3
6 years	6.9	6.4	6.6	6.4
7 years	7.1	6.9	6.1	6.1
8 years	7.2	7.1	6.9	5.9
9 years	7.4	7.1	6.8	6.6
10 years	7.3	7.0	6.9	6.7
11 years	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.7
12 years	6.6	6.6	6.7	6.8
13 years	6.2	6.2	6.5	6.6
14 years	5.2	5.9	6.0	6.1
15 years	4.1	4.7	5.3	5.7
16 years	1.8	2.2	2.5	3.4
17 years	1.1	1.3	1.7	2.0
18 years	0.6	0.7	0.8	1.0
19 years	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4
20+ years	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	<.1	<.1	0.1	0.1
Asian	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	49.1	48.4	49.6	49.3
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	15.3	15.4	16.1	17.3
White (non-Hispanic)	10.2	10.8	12.6	13.2
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	25.1	25.1	21.3	19.7
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	4,234	3,935	3,791	3,862

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
1 year	2.0	1.8	2.2	1.7
2 years	6.4	6.9	6.3	6.1
3 years	7.8	9.4	9.1	8.3
4 years	7.5	8.7	8.4	8.8
5 years	7.8	7.3	7.0	8.0
6 years	8.1	7.5	7.4	7.8
7 years	7.6	7.4	7.4	7.8
8 years	7.4	7.5	7.9	6.6
9 years	7.7	7.4	7.1	7.6
10 years	7.2	6.9	7.4	6.8
11 years	7.0	6.9	6.6	6.1
12 years	6.1	6.5	6.2	5.7
13 years	5.3	4.9	4.6	5.0
14 years	4.5	3.9	4.3	4.3
15 years	2.7	2.6	3.1	3.6
16 years	1.9	1.7	2.0	2.5
17 years	1.3	1.1	1.3	1.4
18 years	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7
19 years	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.4
20+ years	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	<.1	0.2	<.1	0.1
Asian	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	46.5	46.3	45.4	47.0
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	12.5	13.9	14.6	14.4
White (non-Hispanic)	11.8	13.0	15.0	16.2
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	28.9	26.5	24.7	21.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	87.1	85.9	86.3	85.7
Children with one or more recurrences	12.9	14.1	13.7	14.3
Number	32,876	34,768	34,528	31,504

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.77	0.98	0.87	0.65
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.23	99.02	99.13	99.35
Number	62,873	57,405	54,375	49,680

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	20.8	21.0	21.1	22.8
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	63.5	65.1	63.1	61.2
Other	13.4	11.7	13.5	13.9
Missing data	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.0
Number	20,337	18,703	17,970	16,905

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—
Reunification	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.9
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	66.6	70.9	68.8	68.8
Other	29.4	25.3	27.1	27.3
Missing data	3.5	3.1	3.4	3.1
Number	5,743	5,275	5,519	5,595

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	46.0	44.6	44.5	39.6
Children older than 12 at entry	53.9	55.4	53.7	58.6
Missing data	0.1	0.0	1.8	1.8
Number	1,568	1,324	1,498	1,471

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/American Indian				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	6.6	10.2	1.8	11.4	8.6	5.3	8.5	14.1	24.0	23.8	22.8	24.7
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	86.9	83.1	85.5	77.3	74.2	80.9	67.0	71.7	60.1	61.4	60.4	58.2
Other	6.6	5.1	10.9	9.1	16.1	11.7	21.7	13.0	13.7	12.8	14.6	15.2
Missing data	0.0	1.7	1.8	2.3	1.1	2.1	2.8	1.1	2.2	2.0	2.1	1.9
Number	61	59	55	44	93	94	106	92	8,201	7,643	7,548	7,354

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.8	17.1	17.6	18.8	12.0	12.7	14.2	15.8
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	67.5	70.8	66.4	64.3	74.6	75.2	74.1	72.5
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.0	10.0	13.2	14.2	11.1	10.1	10.0	10.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.6	2.2	2.7	2.8	2.3	2.0	1.8	1.5
Number	0	0	0	0	2,983	3,180	3,140	2,972	4,138	4,029	3,997	3,936

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	25.1	28.1	30.0	33.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	56.9	56.4	52.0	48.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	15.8	12.8	15.5	15.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	2.2	2.7	2.5	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	4,861	3,698	3,124	2,507	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	49.7	48.9	53.3	52.1
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	20.5	20.0	19.9	21.5
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	11.2	11.9	9.4	10.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	6.6	7.3	6.4	6.2
48 or more mos.	10.4	10.4	10.7	9.4
Missing data	1.6	1.6	0.3	0.4
Number	12,914	12,181	11,347	10,353

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	78.5	76.7	76.2	74.8
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	9.3	10.6	10.2	10.7
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	12.2	12.6	13.6	14.5
Missing data	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Number	16,605	15,135	15,432	13,598

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	0.7	1.3	0.9	0.6
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	3.9	4.5	4.3	4.5
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	11.4	12.5	13.6	12.8
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	15.8	17.8	17.5	16.4
48 or more mos.	68.2	64.0	63.5	65.6
Missing data	<.1	0.0	0.2	<.1
Number	4,230	3,926	3,790	3,858

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	90.8	91.6	91.4	91.3	75.5	75.3	76.3	75.2	52.2	52.0	51.7	50.2	96.3	95.8	100.0	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	9.2	8.4	8.6	8.7	24.0	24.1	23.7	24.8	46.7	46.7	48.3	49.8	3.7	4.2	0.0	0.0
Number	18,660	17,120	17,593	15,650	11,607	10,360	9,971	9,689	36,916	34,347	31,032	28,517	269	240	64	64

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	1.5	1.6	1.9	1.9
Institutions	6.3	7.1	6.4	6.9
Other settings	92.2	91.2	91.1	91.2
Missing data	<.1	<.1	0.5	0.0
Number	10,791	9,699	9,551	7,873

New York [STATE COMMENT]

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of New York's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, 14.3 percent of the children in New York who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percent not only exceeds the national median of 7.1 percent, but also represents a decline in performance on the measure from 2000 to 2003 (+10.8 percent change).

New York's relatively high percentage of children experiencing maltreatment recurrence in 2003 corresponds to a relatively high child maltreatment victim rate. In 2003, the rate of child maltreatment victims was 16.7 child victims per 1,000 children in the State population, which exceeds the national median of 10.6 child victims per 1,000 children in the population. The 2003 rate also represents an increase in the child victim rate from 2000, when the rate was 15.8 child victims per 1,000 children in the State population.

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

In 2003, 0.65 percent of the children in foster care in New York were found to be maltreated by a foster parent or facility staff member (measure 2.1). Although this percent exceeds the national median of 0.39 percent, it represents an improvement in performance on the measure from 2000 to 2003 (-15.6 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003, 84.0 percent of children exiting foster care in New York (measure 3.1) were discharged to a permanent home, which is less than the national median of 86.3 percent. Also, 69.7 percent of the children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home, which is less than the national median of 72.2 percent. New York does not provide data for the data element pertaining to a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2).

With regard to ensuring that children emancipated from foster care (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) do not spend most of their formative years in foster care, in 2003, 39.6 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4). Although this percent exceeds the national median of 29.6 percent, it represents an improvement in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (-13.9 percent change).

Many of the children who exit foster care at age 18 or older appear to have discharge reasons other than emancipation. In 2003, for example, 2,046 children exiting foster care were age 18 or older at the time of exit. However, only 1,471 children were reported as exiting to emancipation.

There were some differences with regard to exits to permanency as a function of children's race or ethnicity (measure 3.5). (This was assessed only when a particular race or ethnicity accounted for at least 10 percent of the exits from foster care.) White (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care were more likely to be discharged to a permanent home (88.3 percent) than were Black (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care (82.9 percent) or Hispanic children exiting foster care (83.1 percent). However, in 2003, 15 percent

of the children exiting foster care were reported as “Race Unable to Determine.” The percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the foster care population (47.2 percent) exceeded the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the State’s child population (17.7 percent).

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, 52.1 percent of all reunifications occurred within 12 months of a child’s entry into foster care (measure 4.1), which is less than the national median of 72.0 percent. Performance on this measure did not change from 2000 to 2003. In addition, 15.6 percent of reunifications occurred after the child had been in foster care for at least 36 months, which exceeds the national median of 3.5 percent.

With regard to re-entries into foster care, in 2003, 10.7 percent of the children entering foster care in New York were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (measure 4.2). This percent not only exceeds the national median of 9.5 percent, but represents a decline in performance from 2000 to 2003 (+15.1 percent change). Also in 2003, 14.5 percent of the children entering foster care in 2003 were entering more than 12 months after a prior foster care episode. Consequently, 25.2 percent of all children entering foster care in 2003 had been in foster care at a prior time.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2003, only 5.1 percent of finalized adoptions in New York occurred within 24 months of a child’s entry into foster care (measure 5.1). Although this percent is far less than the national median of 23.9 percent, it represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (+10.9 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, 91.3 percent of the children in foster care in New York who were in care for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings (measure 6.1), which exceeds the national median of 84.2 percent. Also in 2003, 75.2 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months, experienced no more than two placement settings, which exceeds the national median of 59.1 percent.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 8.8 percent of the children entering foster care who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). Although this percentage is about equal to the national median of 8.3 percent, it represents a decline in performance from 2000 (+12.8 percent change).

North Carolina [CONTEXT DATA]

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	1,974,101	2,024,074	2,057,281	2,087,443
Race/Ethnicity (%)¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.4
Asian	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7
Black (non-Hispanic)	26.2	26.1	25.5	25.3
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	6.1	6.5	6.7	7.2
White (non-Hispanic)	62.5	62.6	63.1	62.7
Two or more races	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.7
% Child population in poverty	18.5	16.4	20.6	23.1

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	36,186	36,601	35,523	32,847
Children in foster care on 9/30	10,847	10,130	9,527	9,534
Children adopted	1,337	1,327	1,324	1,296

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	123,043	62.3 per 1,000	122,354	60.5 per 1,000	127,702	62.1 per 1,000	120,194	57.6 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	36,186	18.3 per 1,000	36,601	18.1 per 1,000	35,523	17.3 per 1,000	32,847	15.7 per 1,000
Child fatalities	47	2.4 per 100,000	24	1.2 per 100,000	—	— per 100,000	—	— per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	9.5	9.4	9.8	9.9
1-5 years	32.5	33.2	33.3	33.6
6-10 years	31.7	30.4	28.9	27.4
11-15 years	23.0	23.3	24.1	24.9
16+ years	3.4	3.7	3.9	4.1
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	36,186	36,601	35,523	32,847

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.8
Asian	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	36.6	36.2	34.0	33.7
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3
Hispanic (of any race)	8.2	7.9	8.4	8.3
White (non-Hispanic)	51.8	52.2	53.7	53.6
Two or more races	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.3
Unknown	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.5
Number	36,186	36,601	35,523	32,847

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4
Medical neglect	2.1	2.3	2.1	2.1
Neglect	89.9	90.0	90.3	90.3
Physical abuse	3.9	3.7	3.5	3.1
Sexual abuse	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.6
Unknown/missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5
Number	36,186	36,601	35,523	32,847

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	9,870	10,068	9,316	9,140	5,458	5,301	5,615	5,461	4,481	5,239	5,404	5,067	10,847	10,130	9,527	9,534
Median length of stay (months)	17.7	16.5	15.8	13.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	14.9	14.7	13.7	13.2	16.4	16.3	14.0	14.0

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	4.3	5.1	5.2	5.9	16.0	15.4	16.3	16.2	4.2	3.8	4.5	4.0	5.1	5.0	5.8	5.6
1 year	5.9	5.8	6.6	6.4	6.9	7.3	6.8	7.4	5.9	6.9	7.8	7.2	5.9	6.4	6.3	7.5
2 years	5.9	5.7	5.9	5.9	5.4	6.0	6.3	6.5	6.8	6.8	7.3	6.7	5.6	5.8	6.0	6.3
3 years	5.2	5.2	5.0	5.2	4.7	5.4	5.3	5.7	6.0	6.1	6.1	6.0	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.8
4 years	4.9	4.5	4.8	4.9	4.4	5.0	5.3	5.7	5.6	6.0	5.6	5.4	4.6	4.9	4.8	5.0
5 years	4.7	4.4	4.1	4.4	4.4	4.7	4.3	4.7	5.4	5.1	5.1	5.6	4.4	4.1	4.4	4.8
6 years	5.2	4.2	4.3	4.0	4.6	4.9	4.8	4.2	5.2	4.8	4.7	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.0	4.2
7 years	5.3	5.1	4.2	4.3	4.8	4.5	4.3	3.5	5.5	4.7	4.5	4.7	5.1	4.2	4.3	3.6
8 years	5.6	5.1	4.7	4.3	4.7	4.4	4.3	3.7	5.0	5.6	4.3	4.3	5.1	4.6	4.3	3.8
9 years	5.2	5.5	5.1	4.7	4.4	4.8	4.4	3.7	4.4	4.6	4.1	4.4	5.4	4.9	4.7	4.1
10 years	5.2	5.1	5.4	5.2	4.7	4.8	4.3	4.0	4.9	5.0	4.6	4.5	5.1	5.5	5.1	4.0
11 years	5.3	5.1	5.2	5.1	4.2	4.4	4.5	4.7	4.1	4.3	4.1	4.8	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.0
12 years	5.3	5.5	5.5	5.4	4.9	4.5	4.4	4.5	3.6	4.1	4.5	4.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.0
13 years	5.8	6.1	6.1	5.8	5.8	5.5	5.5	5.4	4.1	4.1	4.3	4.3	6.0	6.1	5.8	5.5
14 years	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.7	7.7	5.9	6.1	6.6	5.7	4.8	5.3	4.8	6.6	6.4	6.6	6.8
15 years	7.0	7.6	7.4	7.1	6.9	6.5	6.4	6.8	5.7	6.5	5.8	5.2	7.5	7.3	7.0	7.7
16 years	6.3	6.5	7.2	7.4	3.8	4.0	4.3	4.0	6.3	5.3	5.8	5.5	6.5	7.1	7.3	7.1
17 years	4.8	4.8	4.9	5.7	1.4	1.6	1.9	2.1	5.6	4.2	5.9	8.9	5.0	5.2	5.7	6.1
18 years	1.0	1.2	1.1	1.2	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.3	4.8	6.2	4.5	3.4	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.1
19 years	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	<.1	<.1	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.8
20 years	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2
Missing data	0.2	0.2	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.1	0.3	0.2	<.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	<.1	<.1

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	1.9	2.3	2.1	1.6	3.5	2.6	2.1	2.4	3.0	3.2	2.8	1.6	2.3	2.0	1.7	2.1
Asian	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	50.9	49.3	47.4	44.8	41.5	38.7	38.1	37.4	43.8	43.5	42.5	40.0	49.1	46.8	44.7	43.1
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2
Hispanic (of any race)	6.2	5.6	5.7	5.7	6.5	8.8	7.4	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.4	7.0	5.8	6.2	5.7	6.1
White (non-Hispanic)	39.9	41.2	42.7	45.1	46.8	47.5	49.6	49.6	44.3	44.2	44.9	48.5	41.6	42.9	45.5	45.9
Two or more races	0.5	1.0	1.7	2.1	1.2	1.7	1.7	1.8	0.4	0.9	1.4	1.9	0.9	1.4	1.9	2.1
Unknown	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	3,709	3,329	3,130	3,097
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	2,084	1,990	1,784	1,793

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	2.8	2.7	2.9	2.9
1 year	5.1	5.9	5.8	6.7
2 years	6.6	6.2	5.7	6.9
3 years	6.3	5.8	5.7	6.0
4 years	5.7	5.2	5.4	5.0
5 years	6.0	4.6	4.7	5.2
6 years	5.3	4.9	4.2	4.3
7 years	6.0	4.9	4.8	3.8
8 years	6.5	5.9	4.9	4.7
9 years	7.2	6.5	5.8	4.7
10 years	6.9	7.4	6.7	5.1
11 years	6.6	6.7	6.9	6.7
12 years	6.4	6.7	7.1	6.3
13 years	6.1	7.2	7.1	6.1
14 years	5.1	6.0	7.3	7.5
15 years	4.3	5.1	6.2	7.5
16 years	4.2	4.4	5.0	5.8
17 years	2.4	3.3	3.7	4.4
18 years	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
19 years	0.1	0.2	<.1	<.1
20+ years	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.7
Asian	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	53.9	51.9	47.2	44.7
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	0.1	0.2
Hispanic (of any race)	5.7	5.1	4.8	6.0
White (non-Hispanic)	37.0	39.1	43.3	44.3
Two or more races	1.0	1.6	2.6	2.9
Unknown	0.4	0.4	0.3	<.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	1,337	1,327	1,324	1,296

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	4.0	4.4	3.3	4.7
1 year	8.4	8.5	11.3	10.3
2 years	10.4	10.6	10.6	11.0
3 years	10.2	9.6	9.8	8.1
4 years	7.8	8.8	7.9	7.5
5 years	8.1	7.9	6.8	8.0
6 years	7.6	6.1	6.1	5.6
7 years	8.2	5.9	5.6	5.0
8 years	5.9	7.0	5.1	5.5
9 years	5.6	6.1	5.4	5.7
10 years	6.3	4.7	6.0	5.0
11 years	4.3	5.6	4.9	5.6
12 years	2.8	4.0	5.0	5.1
13 years	3.3	2.9	3.2	4.0
14 years	2.8	2.9	3.2	3.1
15 years	2.1	2.2	2.4	2.7
16 years	1.0	1.2	2.0	2.0
17 years	0.8	1.1	1.1	1.1
18 years	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
19 years	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0
20+ years	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.2	1.9	1.4	0.6
Asian	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.4
Black (non-Hispanic)	44.9	48.2	43.9	41.4
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	6.7	5.7	6.3	5.0
White (non-Hispanic)	42.9	37.0	40.8	43.4
Two or more races	3.1	5.8	6.8	9.0
Unknown	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.2
Missing data	<.1	0.4	0.3	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

North Carolina [OUTCOMES DATA]

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	91.5	91.5	91.0	91.8
Children with one or more recurrences	8.5	8.5	9.0	8.2
Number	15,841	16,315	15,834	14,556

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	1.52	1.11	0.95	0.82
Children not maltreated while in foster care	98.48	98.89	99.05	99.18
Number	14,121	13,986	13,710	13,308

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	23.0	25.3	23.2	23.4
Guardianship	8.8	9.6	12.2	10.8
Reunification	57.6	56.0	55.8	54.9
Other	10.6	9.1	8.8	10.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	4,481	5,239	5,404	5,067

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	27.0	27.8	23.9	26.9
Guardianship	6.8	11.1	11.5	9.0
Reunification	45.8	44.1	46.3	42.7
Other	20.5	17.0	18.2	21.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	533	583	615	599

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.9	2.4	2.6	2.8
Guardianship	5.7	8.2	9.0	8.2
Reunification	68.7	67.9	66.5	62.2
Other	24.7	21.5	21.9	26.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,088	1,193	1,240	1,240

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	28.5	33.8	32.6	30.7
Children older than 12 at entry	71.5	66.2	67.4	69.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	277	302	328	387

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/American Indian				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	11.3	19.8	12.6	18.5	5.3	36.4	20.7	25.0	24.4	28.5	26.2	25.3
Guardianship	33.8	29.9	29.8	16.0	5.3	9.1	6.9	5.0	7.9	9.8	12.3	12.0
Reunification	43.6	46.1	48.3	56.8	78.9	54.5	69.0	65.0	55.9	50.8	52.1	50.4
Other	11.3	4.2	9.3	8.6	10.5	0.0	3.4	5.0	11.9	10.9	9.4	12.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	133	167	151	81	19	11	29	20	1,963	2,277	2,297	2,028

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	57.1	0.0	27.3	21.4	23.1	16.8	16.9	22.6	22.4	21.7	21.9
Guardianship	0.0	14.3	0.0	0.0	7.0	9.3	9.0	6.5	8.3	8.2	11.7	10.3
Reunification	75.0	28.6	100.0	72.7	60.7	61.2	67.9	68.6	59.8	61.0	57.8	57.2
Other	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.9	6.5	6.3	7.9	9.3	8.4	8.8	10.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	4	7	12	11	341	399	399	354	1,984	2,318	2,428	2,460

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	47.1	36.4	27.3	37.5	25.0	40.8	37.7	45.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	17.6	0.0	27.3	25.0	20.0	0.0	7.8	10.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	17.6	63.6	45.5	25.0	50.0	55.1	46.8	41.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	17.6	0.0	0.0	12.5	5.0	4.1	7.8	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	17	11	11	16	20	49	77	97	0	0	0	0

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	59.2	60.0	60.2	64.0
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	23.1	24.5	25.1	23.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	9.1	7.9	7.7	6.5
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	4.3	3.2	3.1	2.9
48 or more mos.	4.0	4.1	3.7	3.1
Missing data	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1
Number	2,579	2,932	3,017	2,784

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	97.5	97.7	97.6	96.9
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.4
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.6
Missing data	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Number	5,458	5,301	5,615	5,461

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	6.2	5.0	6.3	5.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	21.3	24.6	25.3	28.8
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	28.1	25.5	27.3	28.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	19.0	20.1	17.2	15.9
48 or more mos.	25.5	24.8	23.9	21.3
Missing data	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0
Number	1,029	1,326	1,252	1,185

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	57.7	59.5	57.7	52.3	38.9	33.4	37.1	30.2	30.6	25.2	18.0	14.4	84.6	91.3	92.9	97.4
Children with 3 or more placements	42.3	40.5	42.3	47.7	61.1	66.6	62.9	69.8	69.4	74.8	82.0	85.6	15.4	8.7	7.1	2.6
Number	6,312	6,343	6,707	6,525	3,329	3,548	3,325	3,574	5,674	5,455	4,885	4,463	13	23	14	39

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	3.3	3.0	2.8	2.9
Institutions	3.6	3.0	4.7	5.0
Other settings	93.0	93.9	92.5	92.1
Missing data	0.1	<.1	0.0	0.0
Number	3,963	3,968	4,130	3,965

North Carolina [STATE COMMENT]

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of North Carolina's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, 8.2 percent of the children in North Carolina who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This exceeds the national median of 7.1 percent. There was no change in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003.

The relatively high percentage of children experiencing maltreatment recurrence in 2003 corresponds to a relatively high rate of child maltreatment victims. In 2003, the child maltreatment victim rate in North Carolina was 15.7 child victims per 1,000 children in the State population, which exceeds the national median of 10.6 child victims per 1,000 children in the population. However, the 2003 rate represents a decrease from the 2000 rate of 18.3 child victims per 1,000 children in the State population.

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

In 2003, 0.82 percent of the children in foster care in North Carolina were found to be maltreated by a foster parent or facility staff member (measure 2.1). Although this percent exceeds the national median of 0.39 percent, it represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (-46.1 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003, 89.1 percent of children exiting foster care (measure 3.1) were discharged to a permanent home, which exceeds the national median of 86.3 percent. However, 78.6 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) were discharged to a permanent home, which is about equal to the national median of 79.5 percent, and 73.2 percent of the children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home, which also is about equal to the national median of 72.2 percent.

With regard to ensuring that children emancipated from foster care (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) do not spend most of their formative years in foster care, in 2003, 30.7 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4). This percent is close to the national median of 29.6 percent, but represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (+7.7 percent change).

Some children who are reported as exits to emancipation appear to be discharged from foster care prior to their 18th birthday. In 2003, for example, 243 children exiting foster care were age 18 or older at the time of exit. However, 387 children were reported as exiting to emancipation.

There were no real differences with regard to exits to permanency as a function of children's race or ethnicity (measure 3.5). (This was assessed only when a particular race or ethnicity accounted for at least 10 percent of the exits from foster care.) In 2003, White (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care were about as likely to be discharged to a permanent home (89.4 percent) as were Black (non-Hispanic) children

exiting foster care (87.7 percent). However, the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the foster care population (43.1 percent) exceeded the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the State's child population (25.3 percent).

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, 64.0 percent of reunifications in North Carolina occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1). Although this percent is less than the national median of 72.0 percent, it represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (+8.1 percent change). Also in 2003, 6.0 percent of reunifications occurred after the child had been in foster care for at least 36 months. This percent exceeds the national median of 3.5 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (-27.7 percent change).

Although North Carolina had a relatively low percent of reunifications in 2003 occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care, the State also had a very low percent of children re-entering foster care. In 2003, 1.4 percent of the children entering foster care in North Carolina were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (measure 4.2). This percent is less than the national median of 9.5 percent. In addition, only 1.6 percent of the children entering foster care were entering more than 12 months after a prior foster care episode. Consequently, only 3.0 percent of all children entering foster care in 2003 had been in foster care at a prior time.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2003, 34.7 percent of finalized adoptions in North Carolina occurred within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 5.1). This percent not only exceeds the national median of 23.9 percent, but also represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (+26.2 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, only 52.3 percent of the children in foster care for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings (measure 6.1). This percent not only is lower than the national median of 84.2 percent, but also represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (-9.4 percent change). Also in 2003, only 30.2 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months, experienced no more than two placement settings. This percent is less than the national median of 59.1 percent for children in foster care for 12 to 24 months.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 7.9 percent of the children entering foster care in North Carolina who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). Although this percentage is less than the national median of 8.3 percent, it represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (+14.5 percent change).

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	159,061	151,194	149,288	146,827
Race/Ethnicity (%) ¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	7.8	8.0	7.3	7.5
Asian	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6
Black (non-Hispanic)	0.8	1.0	0.9	0.9
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	2.0	2.0	1.8	1.8
White (non-Hispanic)	86.6	86.4	87.5	87.2
Two or more races	2.1	1.8	1.8	1.9
% Child population in poverty	14.1	19.5	16.5	12.7

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	1,383	1,359	1,493	1,494
Children in foster care on 9/30	1,129	1,167	1,197	1,238
Children adopted	108	145	137	120

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	6,985	43.9 per 1,000	6,963	46.0 per 1,000	7,089	47.5 per 1,000	5,900	40.2 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	1,383	8.7 per 1,000	1,359	9.0 per 1,000	1,493	10.0 per 1,000	1,494	10.2 per 1,000
Child fatalities	0	0.0 per 100,000	1	0.7 per 100,000	2	1.3 per 100,000	0	0.0 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	6.6	6.0	6.0	6.9
1-5 years	26.8	28.8	31.4	30.9
6-10 years	32.8	30.8	27.2	29.9
11-15 years	26.5	26.7	28.3	26.6
16+ years	7.3	7.7	7.2	5.5
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,383	1,359	1,493	1,494

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	21.3	21.2	19.3	22.2
Asian	0.1	0.3	0.7	1.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	3.1	3.8	3.8	4.4
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.0
Hispanic (of any race)	2.0	1.8	3.8	4.1
White (non-Hispanic)	73.8	72.0	73.2	70.6
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,383	1,359	1,493	1,494

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	53.1	52.5	52.3	53.0
Medical neglect	2.6	1.7	3.6	0.0
Neglect	61.0	58.3	64.6	88.2
Physical abuse	18.9	18.4	22.6	22.1
Sexual abuse	6.5	8.2	9.2	11.8
Unknown/missing data	1.4	3.2	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,383	1,359	1,493	1,494

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	974	981	1,017	1,066	1,006	1,013	1,044	1,050	851	828	864	878	1,129	1,167	1,197	1,238
Median length of stay (months)	10.9	11.0	10.5	11.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	6.4	7.1	6.6	8.0	10.8	10.2	10.5	10.5

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	5.4	4.2	3.5	3.9	12.0	8.8	10.1	9.0	4.7	3.0	2.7	3.2	6.8	5.4	6.0	4.5
1 year	3.4	3.8	3.9	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.7	3.9	3.5	2.1	3.4	3.6	5.3	4.3	4.6	4.3
2 years	2.7	3.5	2.9	4.5	3.3	3.8	3.5	5.4	3.5	5.4	2.9	4.8	3.2	3.1	4.0	4.7
3 years	2.7	2.3	3.9	3.6	2.6	3.2	4.0	3.7	3.3	2.2	4.3	4.0	1.9	4.0	3.4	3.9
4 years	3.2	3.2	2.9	3.6	2.7	3.5	3.4	3.3	1.5	3.1	3.0	2.6	2.9	3.1	3.4	4.0
5 years	2.5	3.0	2.6	3.6	2.3	2.7	3.5	4.0	3.1	4.0	3.4	4.2	2.9	2.4	3.5	3.4
6 years	3.3	2.2	2.8	2.3	2.1	2.9	2.1	3.4	2.4	2.3	2.2	3.6	2.4	2.7	2.3	3.4
7 years	3.2	2.7	3.2	2.6	3.1	3.8	2.2	3.9	2.6	2.1	2.7	3.2	3.0	3.3	2.5	2.9
8 years	4.8	3.4	4.3	3.6	3.5	3.1	2.7	2.3	4.5	3.0	1.7	3.8	3.1	3.9	3.4	2.5
9 years	4.1	4.9	2.6	4.0	3.9	2.9	3.1	3.5	2.9	2.9	3.6	4.0	5.0	2.8	3.9	3.1
10 years	4.5	4.7	5.3	3.6	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.8	2.8	2.8	2.2	2.7	4.0	5.0	3.3	3.6
11 years	4.0	5.2	4.2	4.8	3.5	4.7	3.1	3.7	3.1	3.4	3.4	4.7	5.0	4.2	4.8	4.0
12 years	4.3	4.6	6.3	5.5	4.3	3.6	5.4	5.1	3.8	3.0	3.5	3.9	4.3	6.0	5.2	4.6
13 years	6.8	5.5	6.6	7.7	6.4	7.0	7.5	6.3	4.7	3.4	5.8	4.3	5.6	6.4	7.5	6.7
14 years	8.8	9.1	7.4	7.3	9.4	8.9	7.3	8.6	6.7	6.8	5.9	6.3	8.8	7.5	7.8	9.4
15 years	10.8	11.6	10.7	9.8	13.1	12.2	12.5	9.7	10.9	10.3	10.2	7.6	11.3	10.9	9.4	9.5
16 years	12.6	12.7	11.7	13.2	12.4	12.0	12.8	10.5	11.5	13.8	12.8	10.8	12.3	10.9	12.9	9.8
17 years	10.7	10.8	12.6	10.6	9.2	10.6	10.1	9.7	17.2	16.9	16.1	15.5	9.8	11.6	9.8	13.0
18 years	1.5	1.7	2.2	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.7	8.7	9.4	6.2	1.5	2.1	1.8	2.3
19 years	0.6	0.6	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.6	0.8	1.0	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.3
20 years	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.2
Missing data	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	33.1	32.8	31.1	31.1	28.2	27.1	26.1	22.9	29.7	27.7	27.1	25.4	31.3	31.5	29.7	28.1
Asian	0.8	0.4	0.7	0.9	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.9	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.4
Black (non-Hispanic)	2.4	1.6	3.2	2.5	1.8	3.5	2.4	3.6	2.2	2.2	2.9	3.9	1.9	2.8	2.8	2.5
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	<.1	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.2
Hispanic (of any race)	2.5	3.1	3.0	3.9	4.2	2.7	5.4	5.6	3.9	3.0	4.1	5.9	2.9	2.7	4.3	4.0
White (non-Hispanic)	60.3	60.2	58.3	57.5	62.1	63.0	61.7	63.0	61.8	64.7	63.0	59.8	60.8	59.4	57.9	60.6
Two or more races	0.9	1.8	3.5	4.0	3.2	2.9	3.8	3.7	2.1	2.3	2.8	4.8	2.0	2.4	4.3	3.2
Unknown	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	322	322	321	319
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	220	188	192	188

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	14.9	13.7	15.6	11.3
1 year	13.0	8.1	7.8	10.3
2 years	4.7	6.2	5.3	7.2
3 years	3.7	6.2	4.7	6.0
4 years	4.3	3.7	5.9	5.3
5 years	5.3	4.0	3.7	7.2
6 years	3.4	2.5	3.4	4.1
7 years	4.7	5.0	2.5	3.1
8 years	3.7	5.6	5.6	3.8
9 years	7.1	3.7	6.9	4.4
10 years	4.7	7.8	4.0	6.3
11 years	7.1	6.8	8.7	5.3
12 years	4.7	8.1	5.6	5.6
13 years	4.7	4.7	6.9	5.3
14 years	4.3	3.1	5.0	7.2
15 years	5.0	4.3	2.8	2.5
16 years	3.7	2.8	3.1	1.9
17 years	0.6	3.1	2.2	2.2
18 years	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.9
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	26.4	31.4	29.0	27.6
Asian	2.8	1.6	1.6	3.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	3.1	3.1	4.0	2.8
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	3.4	2.5	3.4	4.7
White (non-Hispanic)	62.1	59.3	54.8	56.7
Two or more races	2.2	2.2	7.2	5.0
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	108	145	137	120

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	42.6	27.6	37.2	27.5
1 year	16.7	4.8	10.9	5.0
2 years	3.7	11.0	6.6	6.7
3 years	4.6	2.1	4.4	7.5
4 years	2.8	6.9	8.0	2.5
5 years	5.6	7.6	5.8	2.5
6 years	3.7	4.8	2.9	4.2
7 years	5.6	4.8	3.6	3.3
8 years	6.5	2.8	2.9	2.5
9 years	1.9	5.5	4.4	7.5
10 years	0.9	3.4	0.7	5.0
11 years	0.0	3.4	2.9	10.0
12 years	2.8	3.4	2.9	5.0
13 years	0.9	2.1	2.9	4.2
14 years	0.9	0.7	1.5	1.7
15 years	0.0	3.4	0.7	3.3
16 years	0.9	2.1	0.7	0.8
17 years	0.0	3.4	0.0	0.0
18 years	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.8
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	10.2	23.4	9.5	10.8
Asian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	3.7	4.8	5.8	0.8
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	4.6	4.1	7.3	2.5
White (non-Hispanic)	78.7	66.2	65.7	71.7
Two or more races	2.8	1.4	11.7	14.2
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—	—
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	5.2	10.6	7.8	8.9
Guardianship	0.5	0.2	0.6	0.3
Reunification	70.9	60.5	66.7	66.2
Other	18.4	24.5	23.4	23.3
Missing data	5.1	4.1	1.6	1.3
Number	851	828	864	878

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	85.4	72.8	7.2	11.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.2
Reunification	9.8	16.5	62.5	59.2
Other	0.0	9.7	28.7	28.4
Missing data	4.9	1.0	1.2	1.2
Number	41	103	432	419

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.9	0.4	0.2
Guardianship	0.9	0.4	0.8	0.2
Reunification	67.0	60.3	65.3	64.3
Other	25.1	35.8	32.1	33.7
Missing data	7.1	2.6	1.3	1.5
Number	463	464	476	401

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	0.0	10.9	17.2	11.7
Children older than 12 at entry	100.0	89.1	82.8	88.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	43	46	58	60

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/American Indian				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	4.0	9.2	4.7	5.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	4.0	2.9
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	63.2	52.4	62.4	66.8	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	63.2	72.2	64.0	70.6
Other	22.9	32.8	31.2	26.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	31.6	11.1	32.0	26.5
Missing data	9.9	5.7	1.7	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	253	229	234	223	2	0	0	2	19	18	25	34

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.0	5.7	1.9	6.1	11.2	8.6	10.3
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.4	0.9	0.6
Reunification	0.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	81.8	60.0	60.0	71.2	73.4	63.4	68.8	64.8
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.1	16.0	34.3	25.0	17.1	22.2	19.9	23.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.1	8.0	0.0	1.9	2.7	2.8	1.8	1.1
Number	0	1	2	0	33	25	35	52	526	536	544	525

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.1	0.0	25.0	23.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	88.9	63.2	70.8	69.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.8	4.2	4.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	21.1	0.0	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	0	0	0	0	18	19	24	42	0	0	0	0

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	81.4	80.8	80.9	80.2
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	13.9	15.4	13.0	13.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	2.7	3.0	3.8	4.1
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.3	0.2	1.0	0.7
48 or more mos.	0.7	0.4	0.7	1.2
Missing data	0.0	0.2	0.5	0.5
Number	603	501	576	581

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	71.3	66.2	67.5	72.2
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	19.4	19.0	19.5	15.7
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	7.0	10.2	9.7	9.9
Missing data	2.4	4.6	3.3	2.2
Number	1,006	1,013	1,044	1,050

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	11.4	11.4	9.0	5.1
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	15.9	25.0	28.4	17.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	36.4	20.5	28.4	42.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	15.9	22.7	19.4	17.9
48 or more mos.	20.5	20.5	14.9	16.7
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	44	88	67	78

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	87.1	81.2	84.5	84.0	63.5	59.7	62.6	58.9	57.2	50.2	43.6	45.1	50.0	0.0	100.0	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	12.6	14.4	15.2	16.0	36.2	40.3	37.4	41.1	42.3	49.3	56.4	54.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,210	1,220	1,236	1,262	359	352	398	375	407	420	420	474	4	3	7	5

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	1.0	1.7	3.3	1.2
Institutions	8.8	5.7	9.0	7.8
Other settings	90.2	92.4	87.5	91.0
Missing data	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0
Number	489	459	513	566

North Dakota [STATE COMMENT]

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of North Dakota's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

North Dakota's performance with regard to achieving outcome 1 cannot be assessed because the State does not provide data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) for calculating the measure for this outcome (measure 1.1). To ensure consistency across States, the Report to Congress presents only data submitted through NCANDS.

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

North Dakota's performance with regard to achieving outcome 2 cannot be assessed because the State does not provide data to NCANDS for calculating the measure for this outcome (measure 2.1). To ensure consistency across States, the Report to Congress presents only data submitted through NCANDS.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003, 75.4 percent of all children exiting foster care in North Dakota (measure 3.1) were discharged to a permanent home, which is less than the national median of 86.3 percent. Also, 70.4 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) were discharged to a permanent home, which is less than the national median of 79.5 percent. Furthermore, 64.7 percent of the children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home, which is less than the national median of 72.2 percent.

With regard to ensuring that children emancipated from foster care (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) do not spend most of their formative years in foster care (measure 3.4), in 2003, only 11.7 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4). Change in performance on this measure is difficult to interpret because of the large variability in percentages from 2000 to 2003.

There were no real differences with regard to exits to permanency as a function of children's race or ethnicity (measure 3.5). (This was assessed only when a particular race or ethnicity accounted for at least 10 percent of the exits from foster care.) White (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care were as likely to be discharged to a permanent home (75.7 percent) as were Alaska Native/American Indian children exiting foster care (72.2 percent). However, the percent of Alaska Native/American Indian children in the foster care population (28.1 percent) was more than three times the percent of those children in the State's child population (7.5 percent).

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, 80.2 percent of reunifications in North Dakota occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1), which exceeds the national median of 72.0 percent. Performance with regard to this measure did not change from 2000 to 2003. In addition, 1.9 percent of reunifications occurred after the child had been in foster care for at least 36 months, which is less than the national median of 3.5 percent.

North Dakota's relatively high percentage of reunifications in 2003 within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care corresponds to a relatively high percentage of re-entries into foster care within 12 months of a prior episode. In 2003, 15.7 percent of the children entering foster care were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (measure 4.2). Although this exceeds the national median of 9.5 percent, it represents an improvement in performance from 2000 (-19.1 percent change). Also in 2003, 9.9 percent of the children entering foster care were re-entering more than 12 months after a prior foster care episode. Consequently, 25.6 percent of all children entering foster care in 2003 had been in foster care at a prior time.

One explanation for this rate of foster care re-entry may be that 20.2 percent of the children entering foster care in 2003 were age 16 and older at the time of entry. The cross-State analyses found a substantial positive relationship between State re-entry percentages and the percent of children entering foster care who were age 16 and older.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2003, 23.0 percent of finalized adoptions in North Dakota occurred within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 5.1). Although this percent is about equal to the national median of 23.9 percent, it represents a decline in performance from 2000 (-14.5 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, 84.0 percent of the children in foster care in North Dakota who were in care for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings, which is about equal to the national median of 84.2 percent (measure 6.1). Also in 2003, 58.9 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months, experienced no more than two placement settings, which is about equal to the national median of 59.1 percent. There was a decrease in placement stability of 25.1 percentage points for children in foster care for 12 to 24 months compared to children in foster care for less than 12 months.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 9.0 percent of the children entering foster care who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). Although this percent exceeds the national median of 8.3 percent, it represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (-8.2 percent change).

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	2,882,823	2,848,585	2,833,426	2,815,289
Race/Ethnicity (%)¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	14.2	14.5	14.0	14.0
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7
White (non-Hispanic)	79.2	79.1	79.8	79.6
Two or more races	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.2
% Child population in poverty	15.3	16.2	11.8	16.5

Child Welfare Summary

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	54,084	51,031	50,141	47,444
Children in foster care on 9/30	20,365	21,584	21,038	19,323
Children adopted	2,044	2,230	2,396	2,420

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information

	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	120,712	41.9 per 1,000	113,720	39.9 per 1,000	110,495	39.0 per 1,000	108,816	38.7 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	54,084	18.8 per 1,000	51,031	17.9 per 1,000	50,141	17.7 per 1,000	47,444	16.9 per 1,000
Child fatalities	58	2.0 per 100,000	80	2.8 per 100,000	72	2.5 per 100,000	68	2.4 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	8.2	7.9	7.7	8.2
1-5 years	30.2	30.2	30.9	31.2
6-10 years	29.6	28.9	28.2	27.3
11-15 years	23.7	24.7	24.7	25.2
16+ years	6.3	6.5	6.4	6.4
Unknown	1.9	1.8	2.0	1.6
Number	54,084	51,031	50,141	47,444

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)⁴

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	31.2	30.0	29.4	28.3
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.5
White (non-Hispanic)	63.5	60.7	62.1	62.7
Two or more races	0.0	1.1	1.0	1.2
Unknown	4.3	6.9	5.8	6.0
Number	54,084	51,031	50,141	47,444

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁵

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	5.5	11.2	13.4	13.9
Medical neglect	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Neglect	52.7	53.1	54.3	53.6
Physical abuse	27.7	25.6	23.2	22.9
Sexual abuse	14.0	15.4	15.5	15.5
Unknown/missing data	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	54,084	51,031	50,141	47,444

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	19,099	19,562	20,476	19,761	15,396	16,157	14,982	13,997	14,131	14,136	14,421	14,437	20,365	21,584	21,038	19,323
Median length of stay (months)	14.0	14.7	13.8	14.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7.4	7.6	9.8	9.7	14.4	13.4	14.1	14.6

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	5.4	5.3	5.7	5.6	12.9	13.8	14.0	14.4	5.4	5.7	5.3	5.8	5.4	5.7	5.6	5.6
1 year	5.7	5.8	6.1	6.1	5.9	5.8	6.4	6.5	6.2	6.0	7.3	6.8	5.9	6.1	6.1	6.3
2 years	5.5	5.6	5.1	5.4	5.5	5.1	5.7	5.7	6.1	6.3	6.6	6.3	5.6	5.2	5.5	5.4
3 years	4.5	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.7	5.1	5.0	5.3	5.5	5.4	5.5	4.7	4.7	4.7	5.1
4 years	4.7	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.7	5.0	5.1	4.8	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.3
5 years	4.5	4.4	4.0	4.0	4.1	3.9	4.5	4.0	4.9	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	3.9	4.1	4.1
6 years	4.8	4.2	4.1	3.7	4.2	4.0	3.7	3.8	4.3	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.1	3.7	3.8
7 years	4.9	4.9	4.2	3.9	4.4	4.2	3.8	3.9	4.5	4.3	4.2	3.9	4.9	4.2	3.9	3.8
8 years	4.8	4.6	4.6	4.1	4.4	4.0	4.2	3.4	4.7	4.4	4.2	3.8	4.6	4.6	4.1	3.6
9 years	4.9	4.7	4.4	4.4	4.1	4.0	4.2	3.6	4.1	3.9	4.3	3.9	4.6	4.4	4.4	3.8
10 years	4.4	4.8	4.8	4.6	3.8	4.2	4.3	3.8	3.9	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.8	4.7	4.5	4.2
11 years	4.7	4.6	4.8	4.9	3.9	4.1	4.2	4.1	3.6	3.8	4.4	4.2	4.6	4.8	4.7	4.4
12 years	5.2	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.4	4.7	4.4	4.6	3.8	4.2	4.0	3.8	5.0	4.8	4.8	5.1
13 years	5.6	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.9	4.4	4.9	4.3	4.6	5.7	5.6	5.5	5.7
14 years	6.1	6.4	6.3	6.5	6.7	6.7	6.5	7.0	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.5	6.4	6.3	6.5	6.5
15 years	6.9	7.0	7.4	7.4	7.8	7.9	7.3	7.7	6.8	6.6	5.9	6.7	7.2	7.4	7.4	7.7
16 years	7.1	7.4	7.9	8.2	7.4	7.5	6.8	7.1	7.2	6.9	6.2	6.5	7.4	7.7	8.1	8.3
17 years	6.9	7.1	7.2	8.0	5.1	5.1	4.6	4.9	6.8	6.3	6.7	7.5	7.0	7.2	7.7	8.1
18 years	2.1	2.2	2.6	2.6	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	6.4	6.9	6.6	6.2	2.2	2.6	2.6	3.0
19 years	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.6	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.9	0.8	1.2	1.3	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8
20 years	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3
Missing data	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.2	<.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.3

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	<.1	<.1	0.2
Asian	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	<.1	0.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	46.9	47.1	47.7	46.3	41.0	42.3	38.8	38.7	40.3	41.1	41.8	41.5	47.0	47.4	45.3	44.3
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	2.6	2.7	2.8	2.6	2.8	2.7	2.7	3.3	2.9	2.6	3.1	3.1	2.5	2.7	2.5	2.7
White (non-Hispanic)	44.2	44.0	43.9	46.3	50.5	49.6	53.0	53.5	50.7	50.2	49.3	50.6	44.4	44.1	46.6	48.3
Two or more races	5.1	5.1	4.3	3.7	4.2	3.4	3.1	2.9	4.3	4.4	4.0	3.4	4.9	4.3	3.7	3.4
Unknown	0.9	0.9	1.2	0.9	1.3	1.7	2.1	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.5	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.6	1.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	4,438	5,914	5,731	5,201
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	3,033	4,892	4,325	4,038

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	2.9	2.7	4.2	3.8
1 year	5.1	6.1	6.0	6.4
2 years	5.6	5.8	6.1	6.3
3 years	5.5	5.5	5.2	5.7
4 years	5.0	4.8	5.3	4.9
5 years	5.4	4.7	4.2	5.0
6 years	4.7	4.9	4.6	4.2
7 years	5.7	4.9	4.7	4.7
8 years	5.9	6.2	5.3	4.7
9 years	6.6	5.8	6.3	5.3
10 years	6.5	6.2	6.1	5.9
11 years	6.2	6.7	6.4	6.5
12 years	6.5	6.2	6.5	6.4
13 years	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.7
14 years	6.1	5.8	6.6	6.5
15 years	6.1	6.4	6.1	6.6
16 years	5.0	4.6	4.8	4.9
17 years	3.2	4.0	3.3	3.8
18 years	1.3	1.6	1.3	1.6
19 years	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.3
20+ years	<.1	0.2	0.2	<.1
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	<.1	0.1	<.1	0.2
Asian	0.0	0.1	<.1	<.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	48.0	53.9	53.4	51.0
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	2.0	2.6	2.8	2.9
White (non-Hispanic)	44.2	37.9	38.5	40.8
Two or more races	5.4	5.0	4.3	4.3
Unknown	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	2,044	2,230	2,396	2,420

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	6.3	4.9	3.6	4.5
1 year	10.3	9.1	10.2	11.2
2 years	11.7	11.8	10.8	11.4
3 years	10.3	10.0	8.6	8.3
4 years	8.1	9.1	8.7	6.7
5 years	8.0	7.0	5.7	6.7
6 years	6.9	6.4	6.3	5.3
7 years	5.6	6.1	6.1	4.9
8 years	6.8	6.5	5.6	5.0
9 years	5.1	6.0	6.0	5.6
10 years	4.5	5.0	4.9	6.0
11 years	3.6	4.5	6.2	5.3
12 years	4.1	4.2	4.7	4.6
13 years	2.2	2.9	3.5	3.7
14 years	2.1	2.2	3.4	3.1
15 years	1.7	1.5	2.5	3.1
16 years	1.4	1.4	1.4	2.7
17 years	0.8	1.1	1.3	1.5
18 years	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.3
19 years	0.1	<.1	<.1	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	<.1	<.1	<.1
Asian	0.3	<.1	<.1	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	42.5	44.8	45.5	45.0
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	3.6	2.7	2.7	2.9
White (non-Hispanic)	45.6	45.1	44.3	45.5
Two or more races	6.8	6.8	6.8	5.6
Unknown	0.9	0.5	0.6	0.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	—	91.8	91.8	91.6
Children with one or more recurrences	—	8.2	8.2	8.4
Number	—	19,452	24,703	21,770

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	0.13	0.15	0.30
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	99.87	99.85	99.70
Number	—	32,418	31,956	30,325

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	12.0	13.9	14.9	15.3
Guardianship	3.9	3.9	4.6	3.9
Reunification	64.2	62.5	64.8	63.9
Other	8.4	8.0	9.1	9.4
Missing data	11.4	11.7	6.6	7.5
Number	14,131	14,136	14,421	14,437

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	15.6	18.0	18.5	20.0
Guardianship	3.5	3.3	3.1	2.5
Reunification	59.5	57.0	56.4	53.9
Other	13.7	14.7	16.0	16.8
Missing data	7.7	7.0	6.0	6.8
Number	4,930	4,344	4,186	3,936

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.4	0.6	1.1	1.0
Guardianship	3.0	3.5	3.8	3.5
Reunification	52.8	50.3	60.6	57.2
Other	20.1	19.1	22.5	23.4
Missing data	23.6	26.4	12.0	14.9
Number	4,601	4,603	4,298	4,524

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	22.5	22.2	26.4	21.5
Children older than 12 at entry	77.3	77.8	73.4	78.4
Missing data	0.2	0.0	0.2	<.1
Number	1,028	1,013	1,161	1,211

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/American Indian				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	9.7	8.3	5.3	7.1	10.3	5.7	3.0	0.0	12.0	14.7	16.0	16.4
Guardianship	6.5	0.0	15.8	0.0	2.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.3	4.3	4.9	4.7
Reunification	64.5	66.7	68.4	78.6	76.9	68.6	66.7	72.7	62.9	59.7	62.1	59.8
Other	6.5	16.7	5.3	14.3	0.0	11.4	3.0	18.2	8.8	7.8	9.3	9.4
Missing data	12.9	8.3	5.3	0.0	10.3	14.3	27.3	9.1	12.0	13.6	7.7	9.7
Number	31	12	19	14	39	35	33	22	5,701	5,806	6,034	5,996

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.3	15.7	13.9	14.9	11.5	13.0	13.5	14.1
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.8	4.9	6.8	6.8	3.5	3.5	4.2	3.2
Reunification	0.0	100.0	50.0	100.0	62.0	62.4	66.8	66.1	65.3	64.7	67.3	67.2
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.0	9.7	8.4	9.0	8.3	8.2	9.2	9.4
Missing data	100.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	8.8	7.3	4.1	3.2	11.4	10.6	5.8	6.1
Number	1	3	2	6	411	370	440	443	7,167	7,102	7,112	7,307

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	6.3	4.4	5.2	11.3	18.0	19.8	25.1	23.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	3.4	2.2	2.4	3.8	5.1	4.5	4.9	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	66.3	57.5	72.5	68.6	63.2	63.5	57.9	58.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	5.7	5.5	6.2	10.7	7.8	8.0	7.4	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	18.3	30.4	13.7	5.7	5.9	4.3	4.7	5.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	175	181	211	159	606	627	570	490	0	0	0	0

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	73.9	74.2	73.0	72.1
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	18.9	18.6	20.6	21.1
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	3.6	3.6	3.5	4.1
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.1
48 or more mos.	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0
Missing data	1.3	1.4	0.9	0.7
Number	9,074	8,828	9,345	9,220

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	72.0	72.0	72.4	71.0
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	13.7	12.4	13.1	13.9
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	12.4	13.2	13.5	14.0
Missing data	1.9	2.4	1.0	1.1
Number	15,396	16,157	14,982	13,997

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	5.4	4.6	4.7	4.8
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	23.8	21.1	23.5	23.7
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	28.2	32.7	28.5	26.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	20.2	20.1	20.0	19.3
48 or more mos.	22.3	21.5	23.3	25.9
Missing data	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1
Number	1,694	1,967	2,143	2,215

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	85.8	86.0	84.5	85.9	62.1	62.2	61.1	62.0	33.4	33.0	31.0	31.7	68.7	55.8	76.9	82.0
Children with 3 or more placements	12.0	12.4	13.5	12.5	37.5	37.4	38.6	37.8	66.1	66.6	68.7	68.0	0.0	1.4	0.6	0.7
Number	17,945	18,718	17,791	16,706	6,921	6,911	7,542	7,200	9,448	9,944	9,970	9,704	182	147	156	150

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	1.1	1.2	0.9	1.0
Institutions	2.8	2.8	2.4	2.4
Other settings	96.1	95.9	96.6	96.4
Missing data	0.0	<.1	0.1	0.1
Number	10,102	10,629	10,103	9,239

Rick Smith, Deputy Director
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Ohio Job and Family Services

The following are Ohio's comments on the State's data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2003: Report to Congress*.

Ohio's child protection system is state supervised and county administered with the State setting program parameters, allocating funds, and supervising county performance.

Outcome Measure 1.1 (Recurrence of Maltreatment): State data reflect a slight increase in the recurrence measure. To address this, state policy is being revised to provide consistency in how agencies are screening reports and documenting duplicate report information.

Section C (Children in Foster Care): Ohio acknowledges that there is an inconsistency between the number of children reported to be in foster care on September 30, 2002 and then on October 1, 2002. The inconsistency is two-fold. The FFY 2002 end of year count contains cases that would not have been counted had the discharge dates been entered into Ohio's information system at the time the file was created. This is a data entry delay issue. The second inconsistency represents an incomplete beginning year count of children in care. A review of the State's Data Profile showed that the Children's Bureau selects only the most recent record to avoid counting the children as both "in care on the first day" and "entries". That means the children get counted as "entries," and not "in care on the first day" to avoid counting them twice.

Section E (Children Adopted): The reason for the discrepancy in the number of adoptions reported to HHS and the number that HHS counts as finalized adoptions by the state is that the public agencies enter AFCARS data on all children who are finalized by private agencies and are approved for a Title IV-E Adoption Assistance subsidy through the public agency. The focus has been on assuring that all state adoptions are counted accurately during the beginning years of the Adoption 2002 initiative. The state has not found any other data entry or mapping discrepancies that would result in public agency adoptions being excluded from the AFCARS state adoption grouping.

Outcome Measure 4.2 (Re-entry into Foster Care): The state is working with agencies to identify case demographics for children re-entering foster care within 12 months of a prior episode. The agencies are exploring the relationship between family dynamics such as unruly/delinquent youth and substance abuse issues, and how it affects re-entry rates. Service planning processes at the time of reunification, and data entry practices and procedures impacting re-entry data are also being explored. Ohio continues to monitor agencies compliance through the states' quality assurance process to achieve a lower re-entry rate.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of Ohio's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, 8.4 percent of the children in Ohio who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This exceeds the national median of 7.1 percent. There was no change in performance on this measure from 2001 to 2003 (data on the measure are not available for 2000).

The relatively high percentage of children experiencing maltreatment recurrence in 2003 corresponds to a relatively high child maltreatment victim rate. In 2003, the child maltreatment victim rate in Ohio was 16.9 child victims per 1,000 children in the State population, which exceeds the national median of 10.6 child victims per 1,000 children in the population. However, the 2003 rate represents a decrease from the rate in 2000 of 18.8 child victims per 1,000 children in the population.

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

In 2003, 0.30 percent of the children in foster care were found to be maltreated by a foster parent or facility staff member (measure 2.1). Although this percentage is less than the national median of 0.39 percent, it represents a decline in performance from 2001 to 2003 (+130.8 percent change). Data for this measure are not available for 2000.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003, 83.1 percent of all children exiting foster care in Ohio (measure 3.1) were discharged to a permanent home, which is less than the national median of 86.3 percent. Also, 76.4 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) were discharged to a permanent home, which is less than the national median of 79.5 percent. Furthermore, 61.7 percent of the children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home, which is less than the national median of 72.2 percent.

With regard to ensuring that children emancipated from foster care (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) do not spend most of their formative years in foster care, in 2003, 21.5 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4), which is less than the national median of 29.6 percent. There was no change in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003.

There were no differences in 2003 with regard to exits to permanency as a function of children's race or ethnicity (measure 3.5). (This was assessed only when a particular race or ethnicity accounted for at least 10 percent of the exits from foster care.) White (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care were about as likely to be discharged to a permanent home (84.5 percent) as were Black (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care (80.9 percent). However, the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the foster care population in 2003 (44.3 percent) was more than three times the percent of those children in the State's child population (14.0 percent).

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, 72.1 percent of reunifications in Ohio occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1), which is about equal to the national median of 72.0 percent. Performance with regard to this measure did not change from 2000 to 2003. However, only 2.1 percent of reunifications occurred after the child had been in foster care for at least 36 months, which is less than the national median of 3.5 percent.

Also in 2003, 13.9 percent of children entering foster care were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (measure 4.2), which exceeds the national median of 9.5 percent. Performance on this measure did not change from 2000 to 2003. In addition, 14.0 percent of the children entering foster care in 2003 were re-entering more than 12 months after a prior foster care episode. Consequently, 27.9 percent of all children entering foster care in 2003 had been in foster care at a prior time.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2003, 28.5 percent of finalized adoptions in Ohio occurred within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 5.1). This percent exceeds the national median of 23.9 percent. There was no change in performance on the measure from 2000 to 2003.

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, 85.9 percent of the children in foster care in Ohio for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings (measure 6.1), which is slightly higher than the national median of 84.2 percent. There was no change in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003. Also in 2003, 62.0 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months, experienced no more than two placement settings, which exceeds the national median of 59.1 percent.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, only 3.4 percent of the children entering foster care who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage not only is less than the national median of 8.3 percent, but also represents an improvement in performance from 2000 (-12.8 percent change).

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	889,331	878,382	879,854	878,243
Race/Ethnicity (%)¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	10.6	10.3	9.9	9.7
Asian	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	9.3	9.6	9.2	9.2
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	7.9	7.9	7.7	8.0
White (non-Hispanic)	64.6	65.2	66.3	66.2
Two or more races	6.2	5.5	5.6	5.5
% Child population in poverty	23.7	21.4	19.3	17.0

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	13,861	13,698	13,721	12,529
Children in foster care on 9/30	8,406	8,674	8,812	9,226
Children adopted	1,096	959	1,014	1,152

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	59,955	67.4 per 1,000	63,520	72.3 per 1,000	68,971	78.4 per 1,000	63,935	72.8 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	13,861	15.6 per 1,000	13,698	15.6 per 1,000	13,721	15.6 per 1,000	12,529	14.3 per 1,000
Child fatalities	48	5.1 per 100,000	33	3.8 per 100,000	23	2.6 per 100,000	29	3.3 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	11.2	11.7	12.5	12.9
1-5 years	32.6	32.7	33.9	35.6
6-10 years	28.7	28.2	26.6	25.4
11-15 years	21.7	22.6	22.8	21.8
16+ years	4.5	4.6	4.2	4.2
Unknown	1.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
Number	13,861	13,698	13,721	12,529

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	12.7	13.6	15.0	15.5
Asian	0.5	0.8	0.7	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	12.9	13.8	13.4	12.8
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.4
Hispanic (of any race)	6.2	7.3	9.0	9.6
White (non-Hispanic)	63.0	61.2	59.0	57.9
Two or more races	3.5	2.6	2.1	2.9
Unknown	1.2	0.8	0.7	0.6
Number	13,861	13,698	13,721	12,529

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	11.2	8.4	4.7	4.4
Medical neglect	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.6
Neglect	80.0	83.4	85.9	86.5
Physical abuse	19.9	20.0	20.5	18.8
Sexual abuse	7.8	7.6	7.6	7.4
Unknown/missing data	1.4	0.1	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	13,861	13,698	13,721	12,529

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	7,204	8,051	8,217	8,307	6,558	6,487	6,923	6,668	5,364	5,864	6,328	5,749	8,406	8,674	8,812	9,226
Median length of stay (months)	13.4	15.5	15.1	14.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7.6	6.9	6.7	7.6	11.9	14.8	14.5	13.5

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	4.2	4.8	5.4	5.7	11.5	14.3	14.7	14.9	4.5	5.2	5.9	5.9	4.9	5.4	5.7	6.0
1 year	5.5	6.1	7.1	7.2	6.5	7.6	7.9	8.3	5.4	6.3	7.3	8.2	5.9	7.1	7.2	6.9
2 years	5.2	6.0	6.7	7.6	6.1	7.5	7.7	7.5	6.1	7.2	7.3	8.2	5.8	6.7	7.6	7.1
3 years	5.3	5.8	6.2	6.7	5.0	7.3	6.7	7.0	5.6	7.2	7.3	8.0	5.2	6.3	6.6	7.0
4 years	4.9	5.5	5.9	6.1	4.7	5.9	6.2	6.2	5.0	6.0	6.5	6.8	4.8	5.9	5.9	6.2
5 years	4.9	5.2	5.4	5.5	4.4	5.5	5.5	5.9	4.4	5.7	6.1	6.3	4.7	5.3	5.4	5.7
6 years	5.6	5.5	4.8	5.1	4.4	4.7	5.0	5.0	4.8	4.8	5.6	5.4	4.8	4.8	5.1	5.3
7 years	5.2	5.6	5.4	4.6	4.5	5.0	4.5	4.6	5.0	5.5	4.9	4.9	5.0	5.3	4.4	4.8
8 years	5.2	5.5	5.0	4.9	4.5	5.0	4.8	4.5	4.7	5.7	5.2	4.8	4.9	5.0	4.8	4.4
9 years	4.9	5.4	5.1	4.9	4.4	5.0	4.8	4.9	4.7	5.3	5.4	5.1	4.8	5.1	4.8	4.7
10 years	5.4	5.5	5.4	4.7	3.8	5.0	4.7	3.9	3.9	5.2	4.9	4.1	5.0	5.3	4.6	4.8
11 years	4.8	5.4	5.3	5.4	3.6	4.5	4.8	4.4	3.9	4.6	4.9	4.6	4.8	5.2	5.4	4.7
12 years	4.6	5.2	5.3	5.7	4.0	4.2	5.2	4.5	3.6	4.7	4.8	4.5	4.7	5.2	5.5	5.3
13 years	5.1	5.1	5.4	5.4	4.6	4.7	4.2	4.4	3.9	4.5	4.3	4.5	5.0	5.3	5.4	5.3
14 years	6.0	5.5	5.2	5.4	5.7	4.0	4.6	4.5	5.1	3.8	4.4	4.3	5.5	5.0	5.4	5.4
15 years	7.0	5.5	5.6	5.2	6.7	4.1	3.5	4.2	6.2	4.2	3.8	4.0	6.3	5.4	4.9	5.5
16 years	7.8	5.6	5.7	5.5	8.1	3.4	3.6	3.3	8.1	3.9	3.7	3.1	7.3	5.5	5.4	5.0
17 years	6.8	5.5	4.3	4.4	6.8	2.0	1.7	1.7	10.4	4.2	4.1	5.0	7.0	4.7	5.0	5.0
18 years	1.5	1.2	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.2	<.1	<.1	4.5	5.4	3.3	2.3	3.2	1.1	0.7	0.8
19 years	0.1	<.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.2	<.1	0.3	0.2	<.1	0.0
20 years	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.1	<.1	0.0	0.0
Missing data	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	12.0	12.6	13.6	13.1	18.4	13.7	12.3	12.1	12.8	12.9	12.8	12.6	16.4	13.2	13.1	12.6
Asian	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	<.1	0.1	<.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	21.6	20.4	18.9	18.4	17.3	15.5	14.7	14.6	19.7	16.7	15.1	16.4	19.5	19.3	18.4	17.0
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.3	<.1	<.1	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	4.7	5.0	5.7	8.0	6.0	7.5	9.8	9.6	6.6	6.8	7.4	8.6	4.5	5.7	7.7	8.8
White (non-Hispanic)	51.0	49.0	48.7	47.0	50.0	51.5	49.1	48.3	52.5	51.7	50.8	49.5	49.3	49.0	47.5	46.4
Two or more races	10.2	12.4	12.7	13.1	6.9	10.8	13.4	14.7	7.7	10.6	13.3	12.3	9.2	12.4	12.9	14.8
Unknown	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children "Waiting for Adoption"⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	1,766	2,390	2,435	2,570
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	17	0	0	1,497

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	2.4	3.0	2.9	2.3
1 year	4.9	6.1	6.7	5.3
2 years	6.4	6.7	8.5	7.1
3 years	6.0	5.9	7.1	7.1
4 years	6.2	6.8	7.1	6.7
5 years	5.8	6.4	6.7	5.8
6 years	6.5	5.6	6.1	6.1
7 years	6.8	6.7	5.9	5.3
8 years	7.1	6.0	6.2	4.6
9 years	6.0	7.1	6.2	5.6
10 years	6.7	5.9	6.1	5.6
11 years	7.5	6.6	6.7	6.0
12 years	6.9	7.0	6.9	6.3
13 years	5.8	6.0	5.3	6.4
14 years	5.3	4.8	4.7	6.0
15 years	5.8	4.6	3.5	5.6
16 years	2.7	3.3	2.9	4.4
17 years	0.7	1.4	0.7	3.4
18 years	0.5	<.1	<.1	0.2
19 years	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	11.4	10.8	8.9	11.6
Asian	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	25.3	24.9	23.4	22.3
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	3.7	4.7	6.2	6.7
White (non-Hispanic)	47.2	45.8	48.0	46.7
Two or more races	11.8	13.5	13.1	12.6
Unknown	0.5	0.4	0.3	<.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	1,096	959	1,014	1,152

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	1.4	1.3	1.0	1.0
1 year	5.7	5.2	8.9	9.1
2 years	10.1	10.4	10.9	9.8
3 years	8.7	9.3	10.0	11.4
4 years	7.9	7.4	8.4	9.8
5 years	8.1	7.4	8.3	9.3
6 years	7.9	8.0	6.7	7.5
7 years	7.4	7.6	7.0	6.0
8 years	6.1	7.8	7.2	5.6
9 years	7.8	7.2	6.0	6.2
10 years	6.6	6.4	5.1	4.7
11 years	5.5	5.0	3.5	4.3
12 years	4.5	4.8	4.3	4.2
13 years	3.4	3.9	4.1	3.3
14 years	3.1	3.4	3.0	3.4
15 years	2.1	2.7	2.7	2.5
16 years	2.6	1.4	1.5	1.0
17 years	1.2	0.7	1.4	1.0
18 years	0.0	0.1	<.1	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	12.8	11.3	11.6	10.7
Asian	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	24.6	18.4	19.3	18.7
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.3	0.5	<.1	0.5
Hispanic (of any race)	6.6	5.1	3.6	4.1
White (non-Hispanic)	50.2	57.6	53.1	53.5
Two or more races	4.7	6.7	11.8	12.4
Unknown	0.3	0.1	<.1	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	88.3	90.2	90.4	90.4
Children with one or more recurrences	11.7	9.8	9.6	9.6
Number	6,287	6,249	6,495	5,609

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	1.27	1.40	1.62	0.88
Children not maltreated while in foster care	98.73	98.60	98.38	99.12
Number	12,478	13,141	13,713	13,544

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	19.7	16.4	16.6	20.5
Guardianship	2.3	4.6	5.8	7.5
Reunification	71.0	69.9	68.9	63.6
Other	6.9	8.1	8.5	8.2
Missing data	0.0	1.1	0.1	<.1
Number	5,364	5,864	6,328	5,749

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	42.0	26.8	27.3	29.4
Guardianship	2.4	4.4	4.9	5.1
Reunification	43.4	47.0	47.6	45.7
Other	12.2	21.2	19.9	19.5
Missing data	0.0	0.6	0.3	0.3
Number	655	836	916	785

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	1.3	1.8	2.1	2.4
Guardianship	0.9	3.4	5.4	6.1
Reunification	82.2	72.0	65.1	66.7
Other	15.7	21.7	27.0	24.6
Missing data	0.0	1.1	0.4	0.2
Number	1,794	1,205	1,117	958

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	—	33.6	28.8	37.5
Children older than 12 at entry	—	66.4	71.2	62.5
Missing data	—	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	—	280	340	283

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	10.0	11.1	15.7	16.3	0.0	3.8	0.0	5.9	22.3	16.9	18.3	21.7
Guardianship	1.5	4.0	3.9	5.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.9	1.8	6.0	6.3	6.5
Reunification	79.7	69.7	63.4	59.8	100.0	88.5	100.0	82.4	69.3	68.3	67.6	64.4
Other	8.9	14.0	16.9	18.0	0.0	7.7	0.0	5.9	6.6	7.6	7.7	7.2
Missing data	0.0	1.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.1	0.2
Number	688	758	811	724	10	26	17	17	1,055	981	957	941

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	16.7	0.0	21.5	14.8	9.9	16.1	19.4	17.5	17.3	21.4
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.5	0.5	5.4	5.5	2.7	4.8	6.2	8.5
Reunification	57.1	94.7	66.7	100.0	70.1	79.4	76.8	71.3	70.9	69.3	69.2	63.6
Other	42.9	5.3	16.7	0.0	5.9	4.3	7.7	7.1	7.0	7.4	7.1	6.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.2	<.1
Number	7	19	6	9	354	399	466	492	2,814	3,030	3,214	2,844

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	24.0	17.9	12.5	23.5	30.2	18.8	16.8	23.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	4.0	3.6	12.5	5.9	2.2	5.0	5.9	8.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	68.0	78.6	75.0	70.6	62.8	67.4	69.6	60.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.9	7.9	7.6	8.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	25	28	16	17	411	623	841	705	0	0	0	0

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	80.2	78.6	80.2	83.1
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	13.5	14.7	13.5	12.1
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	3.5	3.9	4.1	2.8
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.2	1.6	1.4	1.2
48 or more mos.	0.9	1.2	0.8	0.9
Missing data	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	3,811	4,097	4,360	3,658

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	76.0	78.4	78.0	75.9
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	15.3	13.5	13.8	15.0
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	6.9	8.0	8.2	9.0
Missing data	1.8	0.0	0.0	<.1
Number	6,558	6,487	6,923	6,668

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	6.7	3.6	3.4	4.1
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	24.6	21.8	23.0	22.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	26.1	29.4	30.3	33.1
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	16.4	18.7	19.9	18.8
48 or more mos.	25.9	26.4	23.4	21.6
Missing data	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,056	962	1,049	1,181

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	75.9	73.8	72.3	73.6	48.2	45.9	46.0	43.9	28.8	27.4	25.1	24.4	100.0	80.0	90.9	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	24.1	24.2	25.7	24.8	51.8	53.7	53.7	55.8	71.2	72.4	74.8	75.6	0.0	20.0	9.1	0.0
Number	7,618	7,322	7,798	7,622	2,566	2,942	3,029	3,087	3,550	4,269	4,291	4,243	28	5	22	23

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	13.2	14.9	14.8	14.0
Institutions	1.3	1.4	1.6	1.2
Other settings	85.4	83.7	83.6	84.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	4,182	5,093	5,492	5,279

Linda Smith, Director
Children and Family Services Division
Oklahoma Department of Human Services

The following are Oklahoma's comments on the State's data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2003: Report to Congress*.

Section D (Children Waiting to be Adopted): A relatively small percentage of children waiting for adoption have had termination of parental rights because Oklahoma's policy and practice is to change a child's goal to adoption at the earliest time after determining reunification efforts have failed. This often results in the goal becoming adoption prior to termination of parental rights. This practice has resulted in children moving more quickly to permanence.

Outcome measure 1.1 (Recurrence of Maltreatment): Oklahoma has continued to improve on this measure since FY00 and is expected to approach or exceed the national median of 7.1 in FY05.

Outcome 3 (Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care): A new procedure for documentation of Trial Reunification was implemented and has negatively impacted these measures. This new procedure requires a 6-month Trial Reunification period prior to exiting to Reunification. The negative impact of this new procedure on these measures is expected to level off in future reporting periods.

Outcome 4 (Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry): With regard to reunification, Oklahoma's procedure for documenting reunification did not allow for the 6-month period of Trial Reunification. A new procedure that allows for this documentation was implemented in July 2003 and has positively impacted this measure for FY's 2004 and 2005.

Outcome measure 6.1 (Number of Placements by Time in Care): Standing Court Orders in Oklahoma's two largest metropolitan counties require that children entering care do so through admission to OKDHS operated shelters. Additionally, policy mandates that any child under the age of 6 be placed in an Emergency Foster Care setting following admission to the shelter. This results in higher numbers of placements for metro area children in a short period of time.

Outcome 7 (Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions): Oklahoma includes brief stays in shelters in the group home category of placement settings. This may account for Oklahoma's higher percentage of young children in group home settings as compared to other states.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of Oklahoma's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, 9.6 percent of the children in Oklahoma who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). Although this percent exceeds the national median of 7.1 percent, it represents an improvement in performance from 2000 (-17.9 percent change).

The relatively high percentage of children experiencing a maltreatment recurrence in 2003 corresponds to a relatively high child victim rate in the State. In 2003, the child maltreatment victim rate in Oklahoma was 14.3 child victims per 1,000 children in the State population, which exceeds the national median of 10.6 child victims per 1,000 children in the population. The 2003 rate represents a decline from the rate in 2000 of 15.6 child victims per 1,000 children in the population.

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

In 2003, 0.88 percent of the children in foster care in Oklahoma were found to be maltreated by a foster parent or facility staff member (measure 2.1). Although this percentage exceeds the national median of 0.39 percent, it represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (-30.7 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003, 91.6 percent of children exiting foster care (measure 3.1) were discharged to a permanent home, which exceeds the national median of 86.3 percent. Furthermore, 75.2 percent of the children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home, which exceeds the national median of 72.2 percent. However, 80.2 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) were discharged to a permanent home, which is about equal to the national median of 79.5 percent.

In 2003, 37.5 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4). This percent not only exceeds the national median of 29.6 percent, but also represents a decline in performance from 2001 (+11.6 percent change). (Data for 2000 are not reliable for this measure).

Many of the children who are reported as exits to emancipation appear to be discharged from foster care prior to their 18th birthday. In 2003, for example, only 132 children exiting foster care were age 18 or older at the time of exit. However, 283 children were reported as exiting to emancipation.

There were differences with regard to exits to permanency as a function of children's race or ethnicity (measure 3.5). (This was assessed only when a particular race or ethnicity accounted for at least 10 percent of the exits from foster care.) Alaska Native/American Indian children exiting foster care were less likely to be discharged to a permanent home (82.0 percent) than either White (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care (93.5 percent) or Black (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care (92.6 percent). In addition, the percent of Alaska Native/American Indian children in the foster care population (12.6 percent) exceeded the percent of those children in the State's child population (9.7 percent). Similarly, the percent of Black

(non-Hispanic) children in the foster care population (17.0 percent) exceeded the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the State's child population (9.2 percent).

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, 83.1 percent of all reunifications occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1), which exceeds the national median of 72.0 percent. Performance with regard to this measure did not change from 2000 to 2003. In addition, 2.1 percent of reunifications occurred after the child had been in foster care for at least 36 months, which is less than the national median of 3.5 percent.

Oklahoma's relatively high percentage of reunifications occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care corresponds to a relatively high percentage of re-entries into foster care. In 2003, 15.0 percent of the children entering foster care were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode, which exceeds the national median of 9.5 percent (measure 4.2). There was no change in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003. In addition, 9.0 percent of the children entering foster care were entering more than 12 months after a prior foster care episode. Consequently, 24 percent of all children entering foster care in 2003 had been in foster care at a prior time.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2003, 26.5 percent of finalized adoptions in Oklahoma occurred within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 5.1). Although this percent exceeds the national median of 23.9 percent, it represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (-15.3 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, 73.6 percent of the children in foster care in Oklahoma who were in care for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings (measure 6.1), which is less than the national median of 84.2 percent. Also in 2003, 43.9 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months, experienced no more than two placement settings, which is less than the national median of 59.1 percent.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 15.2 percent of the children entering foster care in Oklahoma who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 8.3 percent. There was no change in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003.

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	847,615	853,866	852,325	849,172
Race/Ethnicity (%)¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3
Asian	3.1	3.3	3.0	3.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	1.9	2.2	1.9	1.9
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.3
Hispanic (of any race)	12.7	13.2	13.1	13.6
White (non-Hispanic)	76.3	76.0	76.9	76.3
Two or more races	4.2	3.7	3.6	3.6
% Child population in poverty	18.7	15.1	13.9	20.1

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	11,381	9,011	9,228	10,368
Children in foster care on 9/30	9,193	8,966	9,101	9,381
Children adopted	831	1,071	1,115	849

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	27,616	32.6 per 1,000	25,618	30.0 per 1,000	27,913	32.8 per 1,000	32,694	38.5 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	11,381	13.4 per 1,000	9,011	10.6 per 1,000	9,228	10.8 per 1,000	10,368	12.2 per 1,000
Child fatalities	21	2.5 per 100,000	8	0.9 per 100,000	21	2.5 per 100,000	14	1.6 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	12.1	13.7	13.7	12.9
1-5 years	37.3	36.3	36.8	36.2
6-10 years	29.0	29.0	27.7	27.8
11-15 years	19.0	18.5	18.8	19.9
16+ years	2.7	2.5	3.1	3.2
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	11,381	9,011	9,228	10,368

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	2.9	3.8	5.9	5.9
Asian	0.9	1.0	1.4	0.8
Black (non-Hispanic)	4.3	4.8	4.9	4.5
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3
Hispanic (of any race)	8.4	10.5	11.7	11.6
White (non-Hispanic)	56.0	63.4	64.4	63.8
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	27.5	16.5	11.7	13.0
Number	11,381	9,011	9,228	10,368

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	6.4	4.9	4.6	3.9
Medical neglect	3.6	4.5	4.5	4.5
Neglect	21.1	27.1	26.9	25.6
Physical abuse	12.1	12.8	11.2	11.1
Sexual abuse	10.4	10.5	10.0	10.7
Unknown/missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	58.4	50.6	55.2	57.7
Number	11,381	9,011	9,228	10,368

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	9,081	9,016	8,652	8,467	4,675	4,537	5,095	5,158	4,563	4,587	4,646	4,244	9,193	8,966	9,101	9,381
Median length of stay (months)	19.1	18.8	18.4	17.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	13.9	15.9	14.9	13.5	18.5	17.7	15.8	15.8

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	4.8	4.5	4.8	5.1	15.0	15.5	16.3	16.6	3.0	3.3	3.6	3.9	4.6	4.8	5.7	5.9
1 year	6.2	7.1	6.3	6.7	7.8	7.3	7.8	8.4	5.5	6.2	6.3	6.6	7.1	6.4	6.9	6.8
2 years	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.4	7.1	7.5	7.2	7.4	7.3	7.9	7.7	7.2	6.6	6.7	6.5	7.3
3 years	5.7	6.4	6.8	6.2	6.7	6.4	6.9	6.9	6.7	6.6	7.9	7.3	6.4	7.0	6.3	6.5
4 years	5.6	5.4	5.9	6.2	5.8	5.8	6.3	6.2	5.9	6.2	7.1	7.2	5.5	5.9	6.2	5.9
5 years	5.0	5.4	5.3	5.0	4.8	5.6	5.4	5.7	5.5	5.9	7.1	6.2	5.4	5.4	5.1	5.8
6 years	5.8	4.9	5.1	4.9	5.0	5.1	5.0	5.2	4.8	5.7	5.6	5.5	4.9	5.1	4.8	5.0
7 years	5.4	5.9	5.0	4.8	4.3	4.8	4.3	4.6	5.0	5.3	5.1	5.3	5.8	4.9	4.8	4.8
8 years	6.1	5.1	5.2	4.9	4.9	4.8	5.1	4.4	5.3	5.1	5.1	4.9	5.1	5.3	4.8	4.5
9 years	5.9	5.8	4.9	5.1	4.4	4.2	4.1	3.6	4.9	5.0	4.7	5.0	5.7	4.9	5.0	4.3
10 years	5.5	5.6	5.6	4.8	4.6	4.9	4.2	4.3	4.8	5.0	4.6	4.2	5.6	5.5	4.7	4.6
11 years	5.3	5.8	5.6	5.2	5.0	4.7	4.7	4.5	4.7	4.5	5.3	4.4	5.8	5.6	5.0	4.7
12 years	5.2	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.5	4.9	4.4	4.2	4.1	5.2	4.3	4.9	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.0
13 years	5.3	5.7	6.0	6.0	5.1	4.8	4.9	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.8	4.4	5.7	5.9	6.0	5.5
14 years	5.6	5.5	5.6	5.9	5.1	5.0	4.4	4.6	5.4	5.3	4.4	4.5	5.5	5.6	5.8	5.9
15 years	5.3	5.0	5.4	5.8	4.1	4.4	4.2	4.2	5.7	5.1	4.1	4.4	5.0	5.4	5.7	5.6
16 years	4.8	4.3	4.9	5.4	3.0	3.1	3.4	3.3	5.3	3.8	4.0	4.5	4.3	4.8	5.3	5.1
17 years	3.7	3.5	3.5	4.2	1.6	1.3	1.5	1.2	5.0	3.7	3.2	4.0	3.4	3.5	4.1	4.4
18 years	1.7	1.3	1.3	1.4	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	4.8	4.1	4.1	4.2	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.8
19 years	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	1.1	1.2	0.8	1.1	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4
20 years	0.1	<.1	0.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.2	<.1	0.1	<.1	0.1
Missing data	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	4.6	4.6	5.7	7.3	5.1	6.5	8.7	9.6	4.9	4.7	5.5	6.9	4.7	5.5	7.5	8.8
Asian	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.6	1.0	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.7	1.0	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.7
Black (non-Hispanic)	10.4	9.7	9.5	8.5	6.1	6.5	5.5	4.4	7.4	7.2	7.9	5.6	9.7	9.4	8.1	7.5
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.2
Hispanic (of any race)	7.3	8.2	8.5	10.0	10.6	10.0	11.2	10.9	9.0	9.5	9.5	11.4	8.2	8.5	9.5	9.9
White (non-Hispanic)	63.5	61.9	61.3	60.6	55.4	58.3	55.0	55.7	58.8	59.6	58.0	59.3	61.8	61.3	59.5	58.5
Two or more races	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Unknown	13.1	14.2	13.8	12.3	21.5	17.3	17.9	18.0	19.1	17.4	17.6	15.4	14.3	14.2	14.1	14.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	3,150	2,680	2,511	2,606
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	0	0	1,305	1,327

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	5.4	4.2	3.9	3.8
1 year	9.7	9.4	8.4	8.9
2 years	10.4	9.9	8.8	10.7
3 years	9.8	11.0	8.6	8.8
4 years	8.7	9.6	9.2	8.5
5 years	8.2	8.1	7.7	8.6
6 years	7.2	8.0	6.4	7.3
7 years	8.4	7.1	7.2	6.2
8 years	7.0	7.2	6.2	6.3
9 years	7.0	6.0	6.3	5.5
10 years	5.6	5.6	5.7	4.9
11 years	4.2	4.6	5.4	4.6
12 years	3.3	3.7	4.4	3.8
13 years	1.9	2.5	3.7	3.5
14 years	1.5	1.2	2.4	3.0
15 years	1.0	1.0	2.0	2.4
16 years	0.5	0.7	1.8	1.3
17 years	0.1	<.1	1.4	1.3
18 years	<.1	<.1	0.2	0.5
19 years	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1
20+ years	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	2.8	3.0	5.0	6.4
Asian	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.7
Black (non-Hispanic)	10.3	9.6	9.3	9.4
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	<.1	0.2	0.4	0.3
Hispanic (of any race)	8.6	9.9	9.1	11.1
White (non-Hispanic)	60.3	58.6	60.5	57.5
Two or more races	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.5
Unknown	16.8	17.7	14.7	14.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	831	1,071	1,115	849

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1
1 year	5.5	5.2	5.8	5.7
2 years	12.9	13.6	12.5	10.7
3 years	11.7	11.2	12.8	14.3
4 years	11.6	9.0	11.5	11.2
5 years	9.4	9.3	9.7	9.4
6 years	7.7	7.4	7.6	8.7
7 years	7.5	8.6	7.6	7.2
8 years	7.2	7.3	6.1	5.8
9 years	7.1	7.3	6.4	7.2
10 years	4.7	4.8	5.3	4.9
11 years	4.6	4.9	5.1	3.9
12 years	2.8	4.0	3.0	4.4
13 years	2.2	2.6	2.8	2.9
14 years	2.2	1.6	1.9	1.3
15 years	1.9	1.5	1.0	0.9
16 years	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7
17 years	0.4	0.9	0.3	0.6
18 years	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	4.3	3.8	0.9	0.7
Asian	0.5	0.4	0.7	0.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	11.6	8.4	8.3	3.4
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	12.0	13.2	15.2	12.6
White (non-Hispanic)	71.0	71.2	67.3	73.4
Two or more races	0.2	2.2	7.4	9.7
Unknown	0.4	0.7	0.2	0.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—	—
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	18.3	23.4	24.2	20.2
Guardianship	3.9	5.5	5.2	4.1
Reunification	60.0	58.3	59.8	62.7
Other	8.5	7.5	6.7	9.4
Missing data	9.2	5.3	4.0	3.7
Number	4,563	4,587	4,646	4,244

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	23.1	31.5	33.4	30.0
Guardianship	3.1	4.3	5.6	3.9
Reunification	43.9	45.7	44.9	45.5
Other	14.2	12.2	10.9	16.6
Missing data	15.8	6.3	5.2	3.9
Number	1,488	1,381	1,354	1,190

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.9
Guardianship	2.2	5.2	4.6	3.6
Reunification	49.5	58.3	61.0	59.6
Other	25.8	26.2	24.7	28.8
Missing data	22.2	10.1	9.5	7.1
Number	1,046	829	782	780

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	42.2	42.1	41.4	41.5
Children older than 12 at entry	57.8	57.9	58.6	58.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	147	159	157	195

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/American Indian				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	13.1	19.1	10.9	13.0	12.9	13.0	32.1	6.7	26.0	28.7	27.5	16.8
Guardianship	9.0	14.4	16.8	11.3	0.0	2.2	0.0	3.3	5.9	3.9	6.0	4.6
Reunification	57.2	54.0	60.2	61.8	67.7	76.1	42.9	76.7	46.3	46.5	50.7	52.9
Other	5.4	5.6	7.4	9.9	12.9	6.5	25.0	13.3	10.3	13.6	8.4	20.2
Missing data	15.3	7.0	4.7	4.1	6.5	2.2	0.0	0.0	11.5	7.3	7.4	5.5
Number	222	215	256	293	31	46	28	30	339	331	367	238

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	10.5	8.3	15.4	16.6	25.9	14.9	19.5	23.7	23.9	21.6
Guardianship	11.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.5	2.5	5.4	2.5	3.6	5.6	4.9	3.9
Reunification	55.6	85.7	78.9	91.7	68.7	70.3	62.6	74.2	57.6	56.9	59.7	60.3
Other	22.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.1	4.6	4.3	4.5	9.8	8.6	7.5	10.3
Missing data	11.1	14.3	10.5	0.0	8.3	6.0	1.8	3.9	9.5	5.2	4.1	3.9
Number	9	7	19	12	409	434	441	484	2,682	2,736	2,694	2,516

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	14.9	25.3	26.3	23.7	0.0	50.0	38.1	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	4.3	5.4	2.1	2.5	0.0	0.0	28.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	69.3	61.4	63.7	66.6	100.0	50.0	33.3	55.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	5.2	3.5	4.4	5.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	6.3	4.5	3.5	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	870	800	820	653	1	18	21	18	0	0	0	0

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	64.3	62.0	64.4	65.4
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	23.0	26.3	25.9	26.5
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	7.4	6.7	5.4	4.9
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	2.8	2.8	2.2	1.3
48 or more mos.	2.6	2.3	2.1	1.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	2,739	2,674	2,779	2,662

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	80.8	79.9	79.7	80.9
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	10.7	10.3	10.8	9.5
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	8.5	9.9	9.6	9.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	4,675	4,537	5,095	5,158

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	0.7	0.7	0.8	1.4
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	10.8	11.6	11.7	12.5
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	27.3	30.2	30.5	37.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	29.4	25.2	30.5	26.5
48 or more mos.	31.8	32.2	26.6	22.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	836	1,073	1,123	857

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	87.6	88.3	88.4	86.7	65.1	64.6	66.7	66.1	41.3	40.5	38.1	33.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	12.4	11.7	11.6	13.3	34.9	35.4	33.3	33.9	58.7	59.5	61.9	66.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	5,485	5,333	5,887	5,900	2,917	2,919	2,809	2,954	5,336	5,298	5,039	4,745	18	3	12	26

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	1.2	0.4	0.7	0.3
Institutions	4.1	3.5	4.2	3.9
Other settings	94.7	95.7	95.1	95.9
Missing data	<.1	0.3	0.0	0.0
Number	3,748	3,635	4,069	4,150

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The following are Oregon's comments on the State's data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2003: Report to Congress*.

Section B (Maltreatment Information Overview): The number of children who were the subject of an investigated report alleging maltreatment increased from 2000 (27, 616 children) to 2003 (32,694 children.) However, the number of child victims (i.e., subjects of a substantiated or indicated report) declined over that time span. The result is that the percentage of substantiated or indicated investigated allegations declined from 41.2 in 2000 to 31.7 in 2003. The decrease in number of victims from 2001 to 2003 is due to several practice guideline clarifications in 2001.

Section C (Children in Foster Care): The number of children reported as being in foster care on 9/30/02 was 9,101. However, the number reported as being in foster care on 10/01/02 was 8,652. Using the dates of entry into foster care and leaving foster care as less than or equal to 9/30/02 and less than or equal to 10/01/02, Oregon's count of the number of children reported as being in foster care on 9/30/02 is 8,727 (from AFCARS file 2002B Period) and for 10/01/02 is 8,647 (From AFCARS file 2003A Period) for a difference of 80 children. We are uncertain of the source the federal analysis group used to obtain the above counts for this report.

Section D (Children Waiting to be Adopted): Only 51 percent of the 2,606 children waiting to be adopted were reported to have a termination of parental rights. Oregon's Waiting Children population includes children who are in the process of being legally freed for adoption. Of the Oregon Waiting Children population for 2003, 50.7 percent were fully free, 68.8 percent of the remaining 49.3 percent were partially freed (at least one parent's rights had been terminated), and 31 percent had not had either parent's rights terminated.

Outcome measures 1.1 and 2.1: Oregon does not participate in NCANDS DCDC; however, Oregon tracks these measures on an ongoing basis in NCANDS SDC file and they are currently used in Program Improvement Planning.

Outcome Measure 3.4 (Exits to Emancipation): In FY 2003, 195 children were reported as exiting foster care to emancipation. However, in Section C (age of children exiting foster care), 5.5 percent (233 children) of the 4,244 children exiting foster care were age 18 or older at the time of exit.

Oregon has multiple exit code options to use for youth exiting care after the age of 18. Therefore, the number of youth exiting to emancipation may not include all youth who leave care after age 18.

Outcome Measure 5.1 (Time to Adoption): In FY 2003, 13.9 percent of adoptions occurred within 24 months of the time of the child's entry into foster care. This is less than the national median for that measure of 22.9 percent. As part of its PIP, Oregon agreed with the Region X ACF office on a secondary measure for time to adoption due to the state's concern that, in working to increase the number of 24 month adoptions, children who have been waiting longer for adoption would be disadvantaged. The secondary measure was that the median time for all children exiting foster care to adoption would be 36 or fewer months. Oregon met this secondary measure in FY 2003 and has instituted strategies that have increased the percentage of children for whom adoption is achieved within 24 months in succeeding reporting years.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of Oregon's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

Oregon's performance with regard to achieving outcome 1 cannot be assessed because the State does not provide data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) for calculating the measure for this outcome (measure 1.1). To ensure consistency across States, the Report to Congress presents only data submitted through NCANDS.

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

Oregon's performance with regard to achieving outcome 2 cannot be assessed because the State does not provide data to NCANDS for calculating the measure for this outcome (measure 2.1). To ensure consistency across States, the Report to Congress presents only data submitted through NCANDS.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003, 87.0 percent of children exiting foster care in Oregon (measure 3.1) were discharged to a permanent home, which is about equal to the national median of 86.3 percent. Also in 2003, 79.4 percent of children exiting care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) were discharged to a permanent home, which is about equal to the national median of 79.5 percent. However, 64.1 percent of the children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home, which is less than the national median of 72.2 percent.

In 2003, 41.5 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4). This percent exceeds the national median of 29.6 percent. Performance on this measure did not change from 2000 to 2003.

There were some differences with regard to exits to permanency as a function of children's race or ethnicity (measure 3.5). (This was assessed only when a particular race or ethnicity accounted for at least 10 percent of the exits from foster care.) White (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care were somewhat less likely to be discharged to a permanent home (85.8 percent) than were Hispanic children exiting foster care (91.6 percent). However, for 15 percent of the children exiting foster care in 2003, the race was reported as "Unable to Determine."

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, 65.4 percent of reunifications in Oregon occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1), which is less than the national median of 72.0 percent. Performance with regard to this measure did not change from 2000 to 2003. However, 3.2 percent of reunifications occurred after the child had been in foster care for at least 36 months, which is less than the national median of 3.5 percent.

Also in 2003, 9.5 percent of the children entering foster care were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode. This percent is equal to the national median of 9.5 percent, and represents an improvement in performance from 2000 (-11.2 percent change). However, 9.6 percent of the children entering foster care in

2003 were re-entering more than 12 months after a prior foster care episode. Consequently, 19.1 percent of all children entering foster care in 2003 had been in foster care at a prior time.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2003, 13.9 percent of finalized adoptions in Oregon occurred within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 5.1). Although this percent is less than the national median of 23.9 percent, it represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (+20.9 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, 86.7 percent of the children in foster care for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings (measure 6.1), which exceeds the national median of 84.2 percent. Also in 2003, 66.1 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months, experienced no more than two placement settings, which exceeds the national median of 59.1 percent.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 4.2 percent of the children entering foster care who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage not only is less than the national median of 8.3 percent, but represents a performance improvement from 2000 (-20.8 percent change).

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	2,914,624	2,879,868	2,854,389	2,830,694
Race/Ethnicity (%) ¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Asian	1.9	2.0	1.9	2.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	12.7	13.0	12.4	12.5
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	5.1	5.2	4.9	4.9
White (non-Hispanic)	78.2	78.1	79.1	78.8
Two or more races	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.7
% Child population in poverty	11.0	14.0	13.8	15.5

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	5,002	4,784	5,057	4,571
Children in foster care on 9/30	21,631	21,319	21,410	21,768
Children adopted	1,712	1,564	2,020	1,946

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	22,694	7.8 per 1,000	23,012	8.0 per 1,000	24,330	8.5 per 1,000	23,601	8.3 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	5,002	1.7 per 1,000	4,784	1.7 per 1,000	5,057	1.8 per 1,000	4,571	1.6 per 1,000
Child fatalities	38	1.3 per 100,000	48	1.7 per 100,000	49	1.7 per 100,000	46	1.6 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	5.6	5.4	5.1	5.4
1-5 years	21.5	21.1	22.3	20.2
6-10 years	29.4	29.5	26.8	26.9
11-15 years	32.8	33.5	34.0	35.3
16+ years	10.5	10.5	11.8	12.1
Unknown	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	5,002	4,784	5,057	4,571

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	—	—
Asian	—	—	—	—
Black (non-Hispanic)	—	—	—	—
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	—
Hispanic (of any race)	—	—	—	—
White (non-Hispanic)	—	—	—	—
Two or more races	—	—	—	—
Unknown	—	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	5,002	4,784	5,057	4,571

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	2.0	2.0	1.6	1.4
Medical neglect	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.6
Neglect	3.6	3.5	3.9	3.9
Physical abuse	37.6	37.9	38.3	36.6
Sexual abuse	49.9	48.6	54.3	57.2
Unknown/missing data	0.0	1.0	0.7	0.0
Other	6.3	6.4	0.0	0.0
Number	5,002	4,784	5,057	4,571

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	21,322	20,152	19,750	19,744	12,235	13,509	13,684	13,981	11,926	12,345	12,024	11,957	21,631	21,319	21,410	21,768
Median length of stay (months)	20.3	19.2	19.5	17.9	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10.5	8.2	9.6	9.4	19.9	18.3	16.7	15.8

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	3.4	3.1	3.1	3.5	10.6	9.7	10.3	10.5	3.4	3.3	3.1	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.9	3.9
1 year	4.2	4.6	4.2	4.3	4.3	3.9	4.3	4.4	3.7	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.6	4.1	4.2	4.6
2 years	4.4	4.2	4.5	4.3	3.8	3.5	3.9	3.9	4.2	4.1	4.5	4.1	4.2	4.4	4.1	4.5
3 years	4.0	4.2	3.9	4.1	3.4	2.9	3.5	3.5	3.9	3.5	3.9	4.3	4.2	3.7	4.0	3.8
4 years	4.0	3.9	4.0	4.1	3.5	2.6	3.1	3.2	3.6	3.0	3.3	3.6	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.6
5 years	4.4	3.9	3.6	3.7	3.4	2.6	3.1	2.6	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.8	3.5	3.6	3.6
6 years	4.6	4.6	3.7	3.6	3.2	2.8	2.9	2.9	3.5	3.2	3.2	3.2	4.5	3.6	3.4	3.3
7 years	4.6	4.5	4.4	3.8	3.3	2.9	3.1	2.8	3.5	3.3	3.1	2.9	4.4	4.2	3.6	3.4
8 years	4.9	4.7	4.4	4.4	3.6	2.7	3.0	3.0	3.4	3.1	3.3	3.4	4.6	4.2	4.1	3.5
9 years	5.0	5.0	4.7	4.4	3.6	3.3	3.2	3.0	3.7	3.2	3.1	3.0	4.9	4.6	4.3	4.0
10 years	5.1	5.0	5.0	4.8	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.5	3.3	3.2	4.9	4.9	4.6	4.5
11 years	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.1	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.5	3.2	3.6	3.3	5.1	5.1	4.9	4.7
12 years	5.6	5.4	5.6	5.6	5.0	4.9	4.3	4.6	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.8	5.5	5.5	5.3	5.4
13 years	6.1	6.3	6.4	6.2	7.0	7.2	7.0	6.6	4.9	4.9	5.3	4.8	6.5	6.6	6.3	6.4
14 years	7.2	7.2	7.5	7.6	9.5	9.9	9.8	10.1	6.9	7.3	7.1	7.1	7.4	7.8	7.9	7.7
15 years	7.7	8.2	8.6	8.8	11.0	13.1	11.8	12.4	8.9	10.9	9.2	9.7	8.5	8.8	9.2	9.6
16 years	8.2	8.2	8.9	9.3	10.8	11.3	11.7	11.6	10.8	10.9	11.4	11.0	8.3	9.2	9.7	10.0
17 years	7.4	7.4	7.5	8.1	6.2	8.1	7.1	7.2	11.2	11.2	11.3	12.6	7.3	7.8	8.2	8.8
18 years	2.7	2.8	3.0	2.8	0.6	1.2	0.8	0.6	8.1	8.0	7.5	6.7	2.8	3.1	2.9	3.0
19 years	0.9	0.9	1.2	1.0	<.1	0.1	0.1	<.1	1.4	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.9	1.2	1.1	1.1
20 years	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	1.0	1.0	1.3	1.1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6
Missing data	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.2	0.2	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
Asian	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	53.3	52.4	51.1	49.8	40.2	42.3	40.1	39.0	42.9	43.1	40.5	39.5	51.6	51.3	50.1	48.5
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	8.5	8.0	8.1	7.3	9.2	8.8	10.6	9.1	8.2	8.8	9.2	7.9	9.1	8.0	9.1	8.2
White (non-Hispanic)	37.3	38.7	39.8	40.0	49.4	47.5	47.9	47.6	47.7	46.6	48.9	50.2	38.4	39.7	39.9	39.3
Two or more races	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	<.1	<.1	0.1	0.2
Unknown	0.3	0.3	0.2	2.2	0.7	0.6	0.6	3.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	1.6	0.3	0.3	0.3	3.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	5,203	5,240	4,231	4,159
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	996	941	899	942

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	1.6	3.3	2.3	2.4
1 year	5.4	5.6	5.2	5.3
2 years	6.2	7.3	6.2	6.9
3 years	6.6	6.5	6.7	6.3
4 years	6.1	7.3	6.3	6.4
5 years	6.4	5.9	6.4	6.1
6 years	7.5	6.0	5.6	5.4
7 years	7.3	7.2	5.7	5.4
8 years	7.1	6.8	6.8	5.3
9 years	7.5	7.3	6.5	6.6
10 years	7.3	6.9	6.9	6.5
11 years	6.8	6.7	6.5	6.4
12 years	5.9	6.0	6.5	6.5
13 years	5.6	5.3	5.9	5.9
14 years	4.1	4.4	5.9	5.5
15 years	4.1	2.8	4.5	5.3
16 years	2.5	2.5	3.1	4.2
17 years	1.5	1.6	2.2	2.5
18 years	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.8
19 years	<.1	0.1	0.1	0.3
20+ years	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	<.1	0.2	0.1	0.2
Asian	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4
Black (non-Hispanic)	57.3	59.6	54.5	50.8
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	9.5	7.6	8.3	9.6
White (non-Hispanic)	32.2	31.9	36.1	35.4
Two or more races	<.1	<.1	0.1	0.2
Unknown	0.4	0.4	0.4	3.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	1,712	1,564	2,020	1,946

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	0.6	0.9	1.0	0.9
1 year	5.4	7.2	6.6	6.7
2 years	9.1	11.4	10.0	8.3
3 years	9.6	8.8	9.3	9.8
4 years	7.5	7.1	7.8	8.3
5 years	8.7	8.4	7.8	8.6
6 years	8.5	7.2	7.6	7.8
7 years	7.9	6.3	7.1	5.7
8 years	7.9	6.7	6.7	6.5
9 years	7.2	6.7	6.2	6.7
10 years	7.0	6.6	7.1	5.9
11 years	5.5	5.0	6.1	6.1
12 years	4.1	5.1	4.9	5.3
13 years	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.8
14 years	2.8	3.3	2.7	4.3
15 years	2.0	2.6	2.6	2.6
16 years	1.4	2.0	1.5	1.6
17 years	0.9	1.0	1.2	0.9
18 years	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3
19 years	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	<.1	0.1	0.3	0.1
Asian	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	55.6	45.7	53.1	52.5
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	6.5	9.1	7.5	6.5
White (non-Hispanic)	37.0	44.1	38.0	40.0
Two or more races	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.2
Unknown	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	96.5	97.2	97.1	96.9
Children with one or more recurrences	3.5	2.8	2.9	3.1
Number	2,606	2,421	2,492	2,166

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.25	0.24	0.35	0.16
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.75	99.76	99.65	99.84
Number	30,739	31,051	30,711	31,086

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	13.9	14.3	16.6	16.0
Guardianship	1.1	1.3	1.2	2.3
Reunification	70.8	67.6	68.1	67.6
Other	14.0	16.7	13.8	14.0
Missing data	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2
Number	11,926	12,345	12,024	11,957

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	19.4	19.9	22.4	21.4
Guardianship	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.7
Reunification	58.7	55.4	53.4	54.0
Other	20.0	22.9	22.3	22.6
Missing data	<.1	0.1	0.4	0.2
Number	2,396	2,404	2,420	2,056

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.6
Guardianship	0.9	1.2	1.1	1.1
Reunification	77.6	71.9	77.2	76.0
Other	20.6	26.1	20.9	22.1
Missing data	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.1
Number	5,295	5,928	5,576	5,526

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	31.5	30.3	31.4	29.6
Children older than 12 at entry	68.5	69.7	68.6	70.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	688	692	742	844

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/American Indian				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	12.5	15.4	30.0	25.0	6.6	12.9	11.5	12.5	17.1	16.0	21.5	20.8
Guardianship	12.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.5	0.0	2.1	1.4	1.5	1.2	2.7
Reunification	75.0	53.8	65.0	56.3	68.9	56.5	67.2	60.4	64.6	60.9	59.4	59.3
Other	0.0	30.8	5.0	18.8	24.6	27.1	21.3	25.0	16.7	21.5	17.5	17.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.1
Number	8	13	20	16	61	85	61	48	5,116	5,326	4,866	4,728

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.8	13.4	11.7	10.4	11.1	13.1	13.6	13.4
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.9	0.5	1.9	0.9	1.1	1.3	1.9
Reunification	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	68.3	64.0	72.2	69.3	76.8	74.3	74.4	73.8
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	20.8	15.3	17.4	11.1	11.4	10.4	10.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.8	0.3	1.0	0.2	<.1	0.3	<.1
Number	0	0	0	0	978	1,086	1,110	946	5,686	5,752	5,882	5,999

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	14.5	5.9	10.0	6.7	0.0	20.0	33.3	15.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	1.4	3.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	73.7	85.3	77.1	72.2	100.0	80.0	66.7	84.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	10.5	8.8	11.4	17.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	76	68	70	194	1	15	15	26	0	0	0	0

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	67.7	71.9	70.9	72.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	18.9	16.8	16.4	15.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	5.4	4.9	5.6	5.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	2.8	2.4	2.7	2.4
48 or more mos.	4.9	3.6	3.9	3.3
Missing data	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.3
Number	8,443	8,340	8,189	8,087

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	71.8	65.0	66.1	68.2
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	19.3	25.6	23.8	22.6
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	8.7	9.2	10.0	9.1
Missing data	<.1	0.1	<.1	<.1
Number	12,235	13,509	13,684	13,981

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	2.1	2.1	2.6	2.7
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	14.3	17.6	16.9	15.5
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	24.8	24.1	28.4	25.6
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	19.6	17.7	18.6	21.8
48 or more mos.	39.2	38.4	33.5	34.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,655	1,770	2,001	1,909

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	84.2	86.4	85.3	85.9	62.5	64.9	63.8	65.0	41.9	46.0	45.1	44.5	100.0	100.0	95.5	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	15.8	13.6	14.7	14.1	37.5	35.1	36.2	34.9	58.1	54.0	54.9	55.4	0.0	0.0	3.8	0.0
Number	14,127	15,341	15,392	15,841	6,415	6,194	6,054	6,415	12,973	12,057	11,856	11,390	42	69	132	79

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	3.8	4.2	3.9	3.4
Institutions	8.9	9.0	7.3	6.4
Other settings	87.3	86.8	88.7	90.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0
Number	6,549	6,463	6,899	6,995

Charles Tyrrell, Director
Office of Children, Youth and Families Department of Public Welfare

The following are Pennsylvania's comments on the State's data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2003: Report to Congress*.

Section B (Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims): Data on the race/ethnicity of child maltreatment victims are not available because Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Law prohibits the collection of this information.

Section C (Children In Foster Care): AFCARS data indicate that there were fewer children in care on October 1, 2002 than on September 30, 2002. We believe this is due to the way the federal annual data files are constructed in that only a child's most recent placement episode is included and therefore a child who is counted as in care on 9/30/02 will not be counted as in care on 10/1/02 if the child exits and re-enters care within the FFY. For example, a child removed from home on August 10, 2002 and discharged from placement on December 10, 2002 would be counted as in placement on 9/30/02. If the same child was again removed from home on January 10, 2003, he would not be counted on 10/1/02 even though he was in care at that time.

Section D (Children Waiting to Be Adopted): AFCARS data indicate that as of 9/30/03, parental rights had been terminated for 23 percent of the 4,159 children waiting to be adopted. We believe the AFCARS foster care data does not provide an accurate account of the number of children waiting to be adopted who have had termination of parental rights (TPR). A separate report that is produced from the Pennsylvania Statewide Adoption Network System indicates that for the period ending 9/30/03 there were 3,598 children with a goal of adoption and of those 2,045 (57 percent) had a TPR completed, 1,356 (38 percent) had a TPR pending, and 91 (3 percent) had a TPR appeal. A delay in entering the TPR dates into AFCARS by county child welfare agencies may be contributing to the discrepancies between the two sets of data. The state continues to work to improve the quality of the AFCARS data in this area.

Outcome Measure 3.4 (Exits to Emancipation): Pennsylvania is committed to providing permanency for all children in placement regardless of age. In addition to the 844 children age 18 and over discharged to emancipation, there were 400 children age 18 and over discharged to one of the four permanency options of reunification, other relatives, adoption or legal custodian (guardianship) in FFY 2003.

Outcome Measure 4.2 (Re-Entry into Foster Care): Pennsylvania had identified this measure as an area needing improvement and addressed it in our Program Improvement Plan. Pennsylvania exceeded its PIP goal in this area, showing a 3 percent improvement by 2003 and a 3.7 percent improvement by 2004.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of Pennsylvania's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, 3.1 percent of the children in Pennsylvania who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This is less than the national median of 7.1 percent, and represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (-11.4 percent change).

Pennsylvania's performance on this measure is difficult to compare to other States, however, because Pennsylvania is the only State whose definition of child maltreatment does not include child neglect, unless it is severe neglect. Consequently, Pennsylvania does not submit information to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System regarding child neglect incidents. This may explain Pennsylvania's very low child maltreatment victim rate of 1.6 child victims per 1,000 children in the population.

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

In 2003, 0.16 percent of the children in foster care in Pennsylvania were found to be maltreated by a foster parent or facility staff member (measure 2.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 0.39 percent, and represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (-36.0 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003, 85.9 percent of all children exiting foster care in Pennsylvania (measure 3.1) were discharged to a permanent home, which is about equal to the national median of 86.3 percent. Also, 77.1 percent of children exiting care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) were discharged to a permanent home, which is about equal to the national median of 79.5 percent. However, 77.7 percent of the children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home, which exceeds the national median of 72.2 percent.

In 2003, 29.6 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4). This is equal to the national median of 29.6 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2000 (-6.0 percent change).

Many of the children who are age 18 and older when they exit foster care have discharge reasons other than emancipation. In 2003, for example, 1,124 children exiting foster care were age 18 or older at the time of exit. However, only 844 children were reported as emancipated.

There were some differences with regard to exits to permanency as a function of children's race or ethnicity (measure 3.5). (This was assessed only when a particular race or ethnicity accounted for at least 10 percent of the exits from foster care.) White (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care were more likely to be discharged to a permanent home (89.1 percent) than were Black (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care (82.8 percent). In addition, the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the foster care population (48.5 percent) exceeded the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the State's child population (12.5 percent).

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, 72.9 percent of reunifications in Pennsylvania occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1). This percent is about equal to the national median of 72.0 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2000 (+7.6 percent change). However, 5.7 percent of reunifications occurred after the child had been in foster care for at least 36 months, which exceeds the national median of 3.5 percent.

In 2003, 22.6 percent of the children entering foster care in Pennsylvania were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (measure 4.2). This percent not only exceeds the national median of 9.5 percent, but also represents a decline in performance from 2000 to 2003 (+17.1 percent change). In addition, 9.1 percent of the children entering foster care were entering more than 12 months after a prior foster care episode. Consequently, 31.7 percent of all children entering foster care in 2003 had been in foster care at a prior time.

One explanation for the relatively high rate of foster care re-entry may be that in Pennsylvania, 19.4 percent of the children entering foster care in 2003 were age 16 and older at the time of entry. A cross-State analysis found a substantial positive relationship between a State's re-entry percentage and the percent of children entering foster care in the State who were age 16 and older.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2003, 18.2 percent of finalized adoptions in Pennsylvania occurred within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 5.1). Although this percent is lower than the national median of 23.9 percent, it represents an improvement in performance from 2000 (+11.0 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, 85.9 percent of the children in foster care for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings (measure 6.1), which exceeds the national median of 84.2 percent. Also in 2003, 65.0 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months, experienced no more than two placement settings, which exceeds the national median of 59.1 percent.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 9.8 percent of the children entering foster care in Pennsylvania who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). Although this percentage exceeds the national median of 8.3 percent, it represents a performance improvement from 2000 (-22.8 percent change).

Puerto Rico [CONTEXT DATA]

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	—	—	—	—
Race/Ethnicity (%)¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	—	—
Asian	—	—	—	—
Black (non-Hispanic)	—	—	—	—
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	—	—	—	—
Hispanic (of any race)	—	—	—	—
White (non-Hispanic)	—	—	—	—
Two or more races	—	—	—	—
% Child population in poverty	0.0	0.0	—	—

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	0	0	0	0
Children in foster care on 9/30	0	8,476	8,179	7,585
Children adopted	454	592	431	443

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	—	— per 1,000						
Total child maltreatment victims ³	—	— per 1,000						
Child fatalities	—	— per 100,000						

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	—	—	—	—
1-5 years	—	—	—	—
6-10 years	—	—	—	—
11-15 years	—	—	—	—
16+ years	—	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	—	—
Asian	—	—	—	—
Black (non-Hispanic)	—	—	—	—
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	—	—	—	—
Hispanic (of any race)	—	—	—	—
White (non-Hispanic)	—	—	—	—
Two or more races	—	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	—	—	—	—
Medical neglect	—	—	—	—
Neglect	—	—	—	—
Physical abuse	—	—	—	—
Sexual abuse	—	—	—	—
Unknown/missing data	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	—	6,195	7,061	7,565	—	3,254	3,483	2,652	—	977	2,369	2,624	—	8,476	8,179	7,585
Median length of stay (months)	—	27.4	21.2	21.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	11.7	11.0	12.1	—	22.4	22.4	27.5

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	—	3.2	3.5	3.5	—	12.5	12.3	12.9	—	4.3	4.4	3.6	—	3.4	3.4	2.8
1 year	—	3.9	5.0	4.6	—	7.7	6.9	6.2	—	7.7	7.9	6.8	—	4.5	4.4	4.2
2 years	—	4.6	4.9	5.1	—	6.7	7.2	6.1	—	7.9	7.1	6.6	—	4.7	4.9	4.4
3 years	—	5.4	5.2	5.4	—	7.1	6.7	5.8	—	9.0	8.3	7.2	—	5.0	5.0	4.8
4 years	—	5.2	5.6	5.2	—	6.6	6.2	6.1	—	8.6	7.6	6.8	—	5.6	4.9	4.8
5 years	—	5.6	5.9	5.6	—	6.9	6.6	6.9	—	7.1	6.9	7.3	—	5.6	5.3	5.2
6 years	—	6.0	6.1	5.9	—	7.2	6.1	6.9	—	8.1	7.2	7.1	—	5.9	5.7	5.5
7 years	—	6.0	6.3	6.4	—	6.3	6.4	5.3	—	6.9	7.6	7.7	—	6.0	6.1	5.6
8 years	—	6.2	6.2	6.0	—	5.4	5.7	4.9	—	6.2	7.5	7.3	—	5.9	5.7	5.5
9 years	—	6.7	6.2	5.8	—	5.8	4.7	4.4	—	5.9	5.8	5.8	—	5.9	5.6	5.4
10 years	—	6.6	6.8	6.4	—	4.9	5.4	4.9	—	5.6	5.1	6.0	—	6.3	6.1	5.4
11 years	—	6.5	6.3	6.6	—	4.3	4.8	4.1	—	4.5	4.9	5.4	—	5.8	6.2	6.0
12 years	—	6.2	6.4	6.4	—	4.7	4.2	4.4	—	4.7	4.8	4.4	—	6.1	6.0	6.3
13 years	—	6.9	5.9	6.5	—	3.9	4.0	4.6	—	5.2	3.6	4.9	—	5.6	6.2	6.4
14 years	—	6.1	6.3	6.0	—	3.8	3.8	3.8	—	4.5	3.6	4.2	—	5.9	5.7	6.4
15 years	—	6.5	5.7	6.3	—	2.4	3.4	4.3	—	2.3	3.2	3.0	—	5.2	6.0	6.0
16 years	—	6.0	4.2	4.0	—	2.0	2.3	2.1	—	1.2	2.5	2.8	—	5.5	5.4	6.3
17 years	—	2.2	3.2	3.8	—	0.9	0.7	1.5	—	0.1	0.8	1.3	—	4.9	3.5	3.9
18 years	—	0.1	0.0	0.0	—	<.1	<.1	<.1	—	0.0	0.0	0.6	—	1.7	3.0	3.8
19 years	—	<.1	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	<.1	0.0	0.0
20 years	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	<.1	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	<.1	0.3	0.4	—	0.9	2.6	4.9	—	0.2	1.1	1.0	—	0.2	0.8	1.5

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	—	0.2	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.2	0.0	0.0
Asian	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	<.1	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	—	0.1	0.2	0.1	—	0.3	0.3	0.2	—	0.0	0.6	0.1	—	0.2	0.1	0.2
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.6	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.3	0.0	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	—	98.7	99.0	99.1	—	98.6	98.9	99.3	—	99.3	98.5	99.4	—	98.6	99.1	99.1
White (non-Hispanic)	—	0.6	0.7	0.6	—	0.5	0.6	0.5	—	0.3	0.8	0.5	—	0.6	0.6	0.6
Two or more races	—	<.1	0.0	0.0	—	<.1	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	<.1	0.0	0.0
Unknown	—	<.1	0.2	0.2	—	0.0	0.2	<.1	—	0.4	0.1	0.0	—	0.0	0.2	0.2
Missing data	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	—	384	1,454	1,416
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	—	35	55	55

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	—	9.9	5.8	3.5
1 year	—	7.8	7.1	6.2
2 years	—	3.1	8.1	7.1
3 years	—	3.9	7.5	8.3
4 years	—	4.2	8.0	8.7
5 years	—	4.4	9.8	8.1
6 years	—	5.5	10.4	9.3
7 years	—	4.7	10.2	9.5
8 years	—	5.5	8.7	9.5
9 years	—	5.2	6.5	8.3
10 years	—	5.2	5.3	5.9
11 years	—	5.7	3.9	5.1
12 years	—	4.7	2.6	3.5
13 years	—	4.9	1.7	2.3
14 years	—	6.3	1.6	1.7
15 years	—	5.2	1.4	1.2
16 years	—	4.9	0.6	1.2
17 years	—	5.7	0.4	0.4
18 years	—	2.9	0.3	0.3
19 years	—	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	—	0.3	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	—	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	—	0.3	0.3	0.3
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	—	0.3	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	—	99.0	99.2	99.2
White (non-Hispanic)	—	0.5	0.4	0.4
Two or more races	—	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	—	0.0	<.1	<.1
Missing data	—	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	454	592	431	443

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	4.4	3.0	4.9	2.9
1 year	7.5	6.9	11.4	14.2
2 years	12.1	7.4	7.4	10.4
3 years	4.6	12.2	8.8	9.7
4 years	8.6	13.2	7.4	9.7
5 years	10.8	6.4	9.0	7.9
6 years	8.1	10.1	4.9	11.7
7 years	13.7	5.4	7.4	9.3
8 years	4.4	8.3	4.6	6.8
9 years	4.6	4.6	8.6	3.6
10 years	2.6	2.9	6.3	3.4
11 years	3.7	3.4	3.7	4.1
12 years	1.3	4.1	4.6	0.5
13 years	1.3	1.9	0.9	0.9
14 years	1.5	2.5	0.9	1.8
15 years	1.5	1.0	2.3	0.9
16 years	1.3	1.9	3.9	0.9
17 years	3.1	1.9	0.9	0.5
18 years	0.7	0.0	0.5	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.3	0.9	0.5
20+ years	2.9	2.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	98.9	99.5	99.1	100.0
White (non-Hispanic)	0.9	0.5	0.9	0.0
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Puerto Rico [OUTCOMES DATA]

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—	—
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	—	7.6	7.9	6.5
Guardianship	—	0.0	<.1	0.0
Reunification	—	89.8	86.9	89.6
Other	—	2.1	1.9	1.4
Missing data	—	0.5	3.3	2.5
Number	—	977	2,369	2,624

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	—	15.8	7.8	7.2
Guardianship	—	0.0	0.6	0.0
Reunification	—	80.7	76.5	85.2
Other	—	3.5	9.6	4.5
Missing data	—	0.0	5.4	3.1
Number	—	57	166	223

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	—	0.0	0.5	0.0
Guardianship	—	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	—	92.4	91.8	90.1
Other	—	7.6	4.6	7.3
Missing data	—	0.0	3.2	2.6
Number	—	66	219	274

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	—	62.5	53.8	40.0
Children older than 12 at entry	—	25.0	46.2	56.0
Missing data	—	12.5	0.0	4.0
Number	—	8	13	25

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	100.0	100.0
Other	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	—	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	—	0	15	2

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	7.5	7.8	6.5	—	33.3	22.2	0.0
Guardianship	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	<.1	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	89.8	86.9	89.6	—	66.7	77.8	100.0
Other	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	2.2	1.9	1.4	—	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.5	3.4	2.5	—	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	—	0	0	0	—	970	2,334	2,608	—	3	18	13

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	—	0.0	50.0	100.0	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	<.1
Guardianship	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	<.1
Reunification	—	100.0	50.0	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	<.1
Other	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	<.1
Missing data	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	<.1
Number	—	4	2	1	—	0	0	0	—	0	0	0

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	—	56.1	59.3	52.8
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	—	28.6	28.1	32.1
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	—	6.0	7.2	8.0
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	—	4.3	2.0	2.8
48 or more mos.	—	3.3	2.2	4.0
Missing data	—	1.6	1.2	0.3
Number	—	877	2,058	2,352

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	—	90.7	94.4	91.2
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	—	2.4	1.3	1.9
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	—	5.6	3.5	5.1
Missing data	—	1.3	0.8	1.9
Number	—	3,254	3,483	2,652

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	—	4.1	6.5	5.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	—	10.8	20.4	24.1
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	—	21.6	14.0	22.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	—	16.2	16.1	10.0
48 or more mos.	—	47.3	42.5	38.2
Missing data	—	0.0	0.5	0.0
Number	—	74	186	170

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	—	99.6	99.8	99.7	—	98.9	99.8	99.7	—	99.0	98.7	98.8	—	100.0	100.0	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	—	0.4	0.2	0.3	—	1.1	0.2	0.3	—	1.0	1.3	1.2	—	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	—	3,417	4,143	3,436	—	1,725	2,046	2,123	—	4,296	4,316	4,634	—	11	40	25

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	—	1.0	0.5	0.3
Institutions	—	6.7	3.1	5.2
Other settings	—	92.3	96.4	94.4
Missing data	—	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	—	2,719	2,598	2,053

Puerto Rico [STATE COMMENT]

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of Puerto Rico's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on Puerto Rico's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

Puerto Rico's performance with regard to achieving outcome 1 cannot be assessed because it does not provide data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) for calculating the measure for this outcome (measure 1.1). To ensure consistency across States, the Report to Congress presents only data submitted through NCANDS.

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

Puerto Rico's performance with regard to achieving outcome 2 cannot be assessed because it does not provide data to NCANDS for calculating the measure for this outcome (measure 2.1). To ensure consistency across States, the Report to Congress presents only data submitted through NCANDS.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003, 96.1 percent of children exiting foster care in Puerto Rico (measure 3.1) were discharged to a permanent home, which exceeds the national median of 86.3 percent. Also, 92.4 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) were discharged to a permanent home, which exceeds the national median of 79.5 percent. Furthermore, 90.1 percent of the children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home, which exceeds the national median of 72.2 percent.

In 2003, 40.0 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4), which exceeds the national median of 29.6 percent. However, only 25 of the 2,642 children exiting foster care had a discharge reason of emancipation.

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, only 52.8 percent of reunifications in Puerto Rico occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1). This percent not only is less than the national median of 72.0 percent, but also represents a decline in performance from 2001 (-5.9 percent change). (Data for this measure in 2000 are not available). In addition, 6.8 percent of reunifications occurred after the child had been in foster care for at least 36 months, which exceeds the national median of 3.5 percent.

Puerto Rico's relatively low percentage of reunifications occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care corresponds to a very low percentage of re-entries into foster care. In 2003, only 1.9 percent of the children entering foster care were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode. This percent is not only less than the national median of 9.5 percent, but also represents an improvement in performance from 2000 (-20.8 percent change). In addition, only 5.1 percent of the children entering foster care in 2003 were re-entering more than 12 months after a prior foster care episode. Consequently, only 7.0 percent of all children entering foster care in 2003 had been in foster care at a prior time.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

Puerto Rico's performance with regard to outcome measure 5.1 cannot be assessed because the number of finalized adoptions reported to the Federal Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) Adoption File (443 finalized adoptions) exceeds the number of children reported to the AFCARS Foster Care File as exiting to adoption (170 children).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, 90.2 percent of the children in foster care in Puerto Rico who were in care for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings (measure 6.1), which exceeds the national median of 84.2 percent. However, in 2003, 56.6 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months, experienced no more than two placement settings, which is less than the national median of 59.1 percent.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 5.5 percent of the children entering foster care who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage not only is less than the national median of 8.3 percent, but also represents an improvement in performance from 2000 (-28.6 percent change).

Rhode Island [CONTEXT DATA]

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	247,457	244,541	244,355	244,049
Race/Ethnicity (%) ¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Asian	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.8
Black (non-Hispanic)	5.5	6.4	5.9	5.9
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	14.1	14.4	13.8	14.0
White (non-Hispanic)	72.7	73.2	74.8	74.4
Two or more races	3.3	2.4	2.2	2.2
% Child population in poverty	13.8	11.0	15.2	17.1

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	3,361	3,319	3,247	3,290
Children in foster care on 9/30	2,302	2,414	2,383	2,357
Children adopted	260	267	256	264

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	11,531	46.6 per 1,000	11,369	46.5 per 1,000	10,772	44.1 per 1,000	10,362	42.5 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	3,361	13.6 per 1,000	3,319	13.6 per 1,000	3,247	13.3 per 1,000	3,290	13.5 per 1,000
Child fatalities	3	1.2 per 100,000	5	2.0 per 100,000	1	0.4 per 100,000	1	0.4 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	9.8	10.6	10.9	10.6
1-5 years	30.0	28.8	31.0	30.3
6-10 years	30.5	31.1	27.7	27.0
11-15 years	23.9	24.1	24.2	25.3
16+ years	4.8	5.3	5.9	6.7
Unknown	1.0	0.1	0.2	0.1
Number	3,361	3,319	3,247	3,290

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.2	1.2	0.9	0.9
Asian	1.8	2.2	2.1	2.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	14.0	13.2	14.6	12.0
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	18.2	19.3	17.7	20.3
White (non-Hispanic)	61.3	59.1	60.0	58.8
Two or more races	1.0	2.7	2.5	3.3
Unknown	2.4	2.2	2.3	2.5
Number	3,361	3,319	3,247	3,290

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2
Medical neglect	2.3	2.0	1.9	2.2
Neglect	73.9	75.7	76.3	78.5
Physical abuse	19.8	19.7	19.8	17.9
Sexual abuse	7.4	5.9	7.0	6.8
Unknown/missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	6.1	5.2	1.7	2.3
Number	3,361	3,319	3,247	3,290

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	2,181	2,122	2,160	2,132	1,409	1,493	1,582	1,567	1,348	1,227	1,378	1,347	2,302	2,414	2,383	2,357
Median length of stay (months)	16.6	16.1	15.6	14.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	11.7	10.1	10.2	10.7	15.1	15.5	13.9	13.9

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	4.8	4.9	4.6	4.4	12.7	12.3	10.9	10.3	4.5	5.1	4.1	4.1	4.9	4.3	4.3	4.3
1 year	5.3	4.2	5.0	4.5	4.0	4.7	4.0	5.4	5.6	5.2	5.8	4.9	4.5	5.1	4.4	4.8
2 years	4.1	4.1	3.8	4.1	3.8	4.2	3.7	3.1	5.5	5.3	4.7	5.5	4.3	4.0	4.0	3.9
3 years	3.9	2.9	3.7	3.9	2.7	3.5	4.2	3.2	3.9	4.0	4.4	3.9	2.9	3.6	3.8	3.4
4 years	3.6	3.3	2.5	3.4	2.3	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.9	3.3	3.1	4.1	3.2	2.6	3.5	3.2
5 years	3.5	2.8	3.1	2.7	3.3	2.5	3.1	3.4	3.9	3.8	2.8	3.4	2.8	3.0	2.7	2.9
6 years	3.9	3.4	2.3	2.8	3.3	2.7	2.3	2.4	3.3	2.6	2.9	2.7	3.3	2.4	2.7	2.8
7 years	3.6	4.0	3.3	2.4	2.7	2.9	2.5	2.2	3.3	2.8	2.8	2.4	3.6	3.4	2.2	2.4
8 years	3.9	3.4	3.9	2.9	2.8	2.5	2.5	1.9	3.9	2.8	2.7	2.2	3.2	3.7	3.0	2.5
9 years	3.7	3.5	3.2	4.2	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.6	2.7	2.9	2.2	2.7	3.4	3.1	4.0	2.7
10 years	4.1	4.4	3.7	3.3	4.0	2.7	3.0	2.6	3.3	3.0	3.0	2.4	4.0	3.4	3.0	3.9
11 years	4.0	4.5	4.1	3.9	3.5	3.3	3.2	3.2	2.6	2.9	2.8	2.8	4.3	3.9	3.6	3.4
12 years	5.3	4.7	4.8	4.4	4.8	4.6	3.9	5.1	4.4	3.3	3.3	3.8	4.6	4.8	4.6	4.8
13 years	5.2	6.9	5.8	5.7	7.9	7.5	8.1	8.9	3.9	5.3	5.0	5.0	6.9	5.5	5.7	5.9
14 years	7.8	7.6	8.6	7.8	10.9	11.3	11.4	10.6	6.1	8.2	8.3	8.0	7.8	8.6	8.0	7.8
15 years	8.0	9.7	9.3	10.0	11.2	11.4	12.4	12.4	8.9	10.1	10.4	10.2	10.0	9.5	10.1	9.5
16 years	8.8	8.4	11.2	10.5	9.5	10.7	9.7	10.8	8.5	8.8	10.0	11.6	8.8	11.5	10.8	10.7
17 years	8.2	8.6	8.0	9.3	7.1	7.0	8.6	7.5	10.2	9.0	11.1	9.7	8.5	8.7	10.0	9.8
18 years	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.6	0.6	0.5	0.8	1.1	7.3	6.1	6.5	5.3	4.8	4.8	4.7	6.3
19 years	2.1	2.7	2.7	2.8	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	1.3	2.4	1.4	1.6	2.8	2.5	2.8	3.1
20 years	1.4	1.3	1.7	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.2	<.1	2.2	2.0	2.4	2.9	1.2	1.6	1.8	1.7
Missing data	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	1.1	0.2	1.0	<.1	<.1	0.3	0.3

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.5	0.7	1.0	1.1	1.2	0.9	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.1
Asian	2.0	1.4	1.7	2.1	1.2	2.2	2.0	2.2	2.0	2.0	1.6	2.5	1.6	1.6	2.0	1.9
Black (non-Hispanic)	22.6	21.4	20.3	19.4	16.3	17.1	16.4	16.0	18.8	18.3	17.1	16.9	20.7	20.5	19.6	18.5
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	13.4	14.8	15.8	17.8	20.2	17.3	19.0	20.0	18.6	16.1	17.8	19.4	14.7	15.6	16.8	18.3
White (non-Hispanic)	58.0	58.3	57.5	54.7	58.0	58.8	55.8	55.1	56.7	60.1	58.2	56.3	58.7	57.7	55.9	54.1
Two or more races	0.0	1.0	1.7	3.4	0.9	1.3	2.1	3.6	0.2	0.6	1.6	2.5	0.5	1.5	2.0	4.1
Unknown	2.7	1.8	1.5	1.3	2.1	1.9	3.1	1.8	2.6	2.0	2.3	1.0	2.4	1.8	2.1	1.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	388	403	387	306
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	201	233	207	163

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	0.8	1.2	1.0	1.6
1 year	7.0	6.5	5.9	6.5
2 years	5.7	7.2	9.8	4.9
3 years	5.2	6.7	7.0	7.2
4 years	3.9	4.5	5.7	4.9
5 years	5.7	6.0	3.6	3.6
6 years	5.7	3.7	4.4	5.2
7 years	7.5	6.7	3.1	4.6
8 years	5.4	7.9	5.9	6.5
9 years	6.7	5.5	8.5	4.6
10 years	8.0	5.2	6.5	5.9
11 years	8.5	5.5	6.2	6.9
12 years	8.0	6.9	6.5	7.8
13 years	8.0	7.2	7.5	7.8
14 years	5.7	9.2	7.8	7.8
15 years	4.4	4.5	7.0	7.8
16 years	2.3	3.7	2.1	4.2
17 years	0.5	1.0	1.0	1.3
18 years	1.3	0.2	0.3	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.3
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.5	0.7	1.0	1.0
Asian	1.3	0.7	0.8	1.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	27.8	29.8	19.9	20.9
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	19.3	15.6	16.0	22.9
White (non-Hispanic)	47.4	50.6	56.8	49.7
Two or more races	0.0	1.2	3.4	3.3
Unknown	3.4	1.0	1.8	1.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	260	267	256	264

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	2.3	2.6	2.7	2.7
1 year	11.5	12.7	13.3	12.1
2 years	11.9	12.0	10.5	15.5
3 years	11.5	11.6	9.8	11.0
4 years	10.0	6.7	7.8	9.8
5 years	6.5	10.1	7.4	8.3
6 years	6.5	4.5	6.6	2.3
7 years	6.9	6.4	6.3	5.7
8 years	6.5	6.0	7.8	3.8
9 years	5.8	4.5	5.1	6.4
10 years	4.6	8.2	6.6	4.2
11 years	3.5	3.7	3.9	3.4
12 years	4.2	3.7	4.3	3.0
13 years	1.5	3.0	1.6	1.9
14 years	2.7	1.5	3.1	2.7
15 years	2.7	1.5	0.8	2.7
16 years	1.2	0.7	1.2	3.8
17 years	0.0	0.4	0.8	0.4
18 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.4	2.2	1.6	0.8
Asian	0.8	2.2	0.4	0.4
Black (non-Hispanic)	25.8	24.3	25.4	17.8
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	15.4	13.1	11.7	16.7
White (non-Hispanic)	53.8	46.8	55.1	55.7
Two or more races	1.5	3.0	2.7	7.6
Unknown	2.3	8.2	3.1	1.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Rhode Island [OUTCOMES DATA]

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	87.6	89.0	89.8	88.9
Children with one or more recurrences	12.4	11.0	10.2	11.1
Number	1,634	1,624	1,532	1,500

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	1.66	1.62	1.10	1.52
Children not maltreated while in foster care	98.34	98.38	98.90	98.48
Number	3,304	3,327	3,443	3,418

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	12.6	13.8	13.7	16.6
Guardianship	3.1	2.9	2.2	2.5
Reunification	59.3	68.8	69.7	64.0
Other	14.5	13.7	13.2	16.9
Missing data	10.4	0.9	1.2	0.0
Number	1,348	1,227	1,378	1,347

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	13.5	12.4	10.3	15.4
Guardianship	4.2	3.3	1.3	2.5
Reunification	51.4	64.5	65.5	60.2
Other	18.1	19.4	22.0	22.0
Missing data	12.7	0.4	0.9	0.0
Number	259	242	232	364

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.5	0.0	0.3	1.4
Guardianship	0.7	1.6	1.5	1.7
Reunification	58.3	72.4	72.7	66.9
Other	25.8	24.2	23.4	30.0
Missing data	14.7	1.8	2.1	0.0
Number	563	561	662	647

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	17.1	18.2	17.7	20.0
Children older than 12 at entry	81.7	80.5	82.3	78.8
Missing data	1.2	1.3	0.0	1.2
Number	82	77	62	85

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/American Indian				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	7.7	15.4	11.8	16.7	0.0	12.5	4.5	2.9	18.9	21.9	16.6	16.3
Guardianship	15.4	0.0	0.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.1	3.6	2.1	0.4
Reunification	61.5	53.8	70.6	50.0	81.5	70.8	72.7	76.5	53.9	58.9	64.7	65.6
Other	7.7	30.8	17.6	8.3	14.8	16.7	22.7	20.6	14.6	14.3	15.7	17.6
Missing data	7.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.5	1.3	0.9	0.0
Number	13	13	17	12	27	24	22	34	254	224	235	227

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.2	10.1	15.5	16.5	11.5	12.2	12.3	16.2
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.4	2.0	2.0	0.4	2.6	3.1	2.5	3.8
Reunification	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	61.8	74.2	69.0	65.5	59.0	70.4	71.3	63.4
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.7	13.1	10.6	17.6	15.4	13.6	13.0	16.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.0	0.5	2.9	0.0	11.4	0.7	0.9	0.0
Number	1	0	0	0	251	198	245	261	764	737	802	759

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	14.3	20.8	9.4	15.4	0.0	0.0	31.8	47.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	65.7	70.8	81.3	69.2	100.0	71.4	50.0	41.2	0.0	0.0	66.7	0.0
Other	11.4	8.3	6.3	15.4	0.0	0.0	18.2	11.8	0.0	0.0	33.3	0.0
Missing data	5.7	0.0	3.1	0.0	0.0	28.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	35	24	32	13	3	7	22	34	0	0	3	7

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	63.3	68.8	66.1	68.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	19.8	17.2	17.5	20.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	5.6	4.3	7.7	7.0
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	3.0	2.7	3.0	1.6
48 or more mos.	1.8	3.6	3.0	1.9
Missing data	6.6	3.4	2.6	0.9
Number	800	844	960	862

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	66.7	64.8	68.0	60.3
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	20.8	20.9	19.2	20.3
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	11.1	13.2	11.5	13.1
Missing data	1.4	1.1	1.3	6.3
Number	1,409	1,493	1,582	1,567

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	7.6	12.4	8.5	9.8
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	30.0	31.4	36.5	40.6
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	24.1	24.9	23.3	21.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	16.5	13.6	11.1	10.7
48 or more mos.	20.6	16.6	18.5	16.5
Missing data	1.2	1.2	2.1	0.9
Number	170	169	189	224

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	72.6	78.8	82.2	71.1	55.1	55.1	60.3	57.6	33.4	32.5	33.9	27.1	100.0	100.0	100.0	85.7
Children with 3 or more placements	27.4	21.2	17.8	28.9	44.9	44.9	39.7	42.4	66.1	66.8	65.9	72.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.3
Number	1,653	1,710	1,797	1,786	742	739	793	833	1,187	1,151	1,134	1,066	8	15	18	14

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	15.8	17.5	18.9	18.9
Institutions	1.2	1.9	0.8	0.5
Other settings	82.9	80.7	80.3	80.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	726	756	762	756

Rhode Island [STATE COMMENT]

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of Rhode Island's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, 11.1 percent of the children in Rhode Island who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). Although this percent exceeds the national median of 7.1 percent, it represents an improvement in performance from 2000 (-10.5 percent change).

In 2003, the rate of child maltreatment victims in Rhode Island was 13.5 child victims per 1,000 children in the State population, which is higher than the national median of 10.6 child victims per 1,000 children in the population. This rate did not change from 2000 to 2003.

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

In 2003, 1.54 percent of the children in foster care in Rhode Island were found to be maltreated by a foster parent or facility staff member (measure 2.1). Although this percentage exceeds the national median of 0.39 percent, it represents an improvement in performance on the measure from 2000 to 2003 (-7.2 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003, 83.1 percent of children exiting foster care in Rhode Island (measure 3.1) were discharged to a permanent home, which is less than the national median of 86.3 percent. Also, 78.1 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) were discharged to a permanent home, which is slightly less than the national median of 79.5 percent. Furthermore, 70.0 percent of the children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home, which is less than the national median of 72.2 percent.

In 2003, 20.0 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4). Although this percent is less than the national median of 29.6 percent, performance on this measure declined from 2000 to 2003 (+17.0 percent change).

Some of the children who exit foster care at age 18 or older are discharged for reasons other than emancipation. In 2003, for example, 132 children exiting foster care were age 18 or older at the time of exit. However, only 85 children were reported as having a discharge reason of emancipation.

There were no real differences with regard to exits to permanency as a function of children's race or ethnicity (measure 3.5). (This was assessed only when a particular race or ethnicity accounted for at least 10 percent of the exits from foster care.) White (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care were as likely to be discharged to a permanent home (83.4 percent) as were Black (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care (82.3 percent) and Hispanic children exiting foster care (82.4 percent). However, the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the foster care population (18.5 percent) exceeded the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the State's child population (5.9 percent).

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, 68.3 percent of reunifications in Rhode Island occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1). Although this percent is less than the national median of 72.0 percent, it represents an improvement in performance from 2000 (+7.9 percent change). Also in 2003, 3.5 percent of reunifications occurred after the child had been in foster care for at least 36 months, which is equal to the national median.

In 2003, 20.3 percent of the children entering foster care in Rhode Island were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (measure 4.2), which exceeds the national median of 9.5 percent. There was no change in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003. In addition, 13.1 percent of the children entering foster care were re-entering more than 12 months after a prior foster care episode. Consequently, 33.4 percent of all children entering foster care in 2003 had been in foster care at a prior time.

One factor that may explain the rate of foster care re-entry is that in Rhode Island, 19.6 percent of the children entering foster care in 2003 were age 16 and older at the time of entry. A cross-State analysis found a substantial positive relationship between State re-entry percentages and the percent of children entering foster care who were age 16 and older.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2003, 50.4 percent of finalized adoptions in Rhode Island occurred within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 5.1). This percent not only exceeds the national median of 23.9 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2000 (+34.1 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, 71.1 percent of the children in foster care for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings (measure 6.1), which is less than the national median of 84.2 percent. Also in 2003, 57.6 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months, experienced no more than two placement settings, which is less than the national median of 59.1 percent.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 19.4 percent of the children entering foster care in Rhode Island who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage not only exceeds the national median of 8.3 percent, but also represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (+14.1 percent change).

South Carolina [CONTEXT DATA]

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	1,009,216	1,013,251	1,018,092	1,023,504
Race/Ethnicity (%) ¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Asian	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Black (non-Hispanic)	36.4	36.1	35.6	35.5
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.2
White (non-Hispanic)	58.0	58.3	58.8	58.6
Two or more races	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.4
% Child population in poverty	16.3	23.0	19.0	17.4

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	11,246	11,199	10,738	11,143
Children in foster care on 9/30	4,525	4,774	4,818	4,894
Children adopted	378	384	345	280

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	38,844	38.5 per 1,000	36,836	36.3 per 1,000	30,937	30.4 per 1,000	39,396	38.5 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	11,246	11.1 per 1,000	11,199	11.1 per 1,000	10,738	10.6 per 1,000	11,143	10.9 per 1,000
Child fatalities	20	2.0 per 100,000	23	2.3 per 100,000	13	1.3 per 100,000	20	2.0 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	8.1	10.7	10.7	11.0
1-5 years	28.2	28.3	27.0	28.3
6-10 years	29.9	29.1	26.9	26.7
11-15 years	26.2	26.2	25.2	25.1
16+ years	6.0	5.2	4.8	4.6
Unknown	1.7	0.4	5.4	4.3
Number	11,246	11,199	10,738	11,143

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	45.6	43.9	41.0	39.9
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	1.7	2.3	2.8	2.7
White (non-Hispanic)	52.3	50.7	50.9	52.3
Two or more races	0.0	1.9	2.6	2.7
Unknown	0.0	0.6	2.3	2.1
Number	11,246	11,199	10,738	11,143

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	0.6	2.9	2.2	1.3
Medical neglect	4.0	3.9	3.4	4.1
Neglect	53.0	68.1	64.8	64.8
Physical abuse	13.6	33.4	33.4	34.7
Sexual abuse	5.4	8.1	8.8	7.8
Unknown/missing data	8.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	70.0	0.2	0.4	0.2
Number	11,246	11,199	10,738	11,143

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	4,491	4,476	4,688	4,740	3,172	3,405	3,537	3,410	3,137	3,107	3,407	3,256	4,525	4,774	4,818	4,894
Median length of stay (months)	20.3	21.2	19.4	18.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.4	4.6	5.0	5.1	20.4	19.2	18.4	19.3

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	4.5	5.0	4.7	5.1	15.4	13.9	14.1	13.6	7.0	7.1	5.8	6.3	5.2	4.7	5.2	4.3
1 year	5.3	5.6	5.7	5.7	6.6	6.3	5.9	6.3	5.9	6.8	6.2	6.8	5.6	5.6	5.7	5.8
2 years	4.5	5.0	4.7	5.4	5.5	5.8	6.1	5.8	6.6	6.6	6.3	6.7	5.0	4.8	5.5	5.5
3 years	4.3	4.0	4.5	4.3	5.0	5.1	4.9	4.8	5.4	5.9	5.8	5.7	4.1	4.5	4.3	5.0
4 years	4.1	3.6	4.1	4.0	3.9	4.3	4.5	5.3	5.0	4.6	4.9	5.9	3.7	4.0	4.0	3.8
5 years	3.8	3.3	3.5	3.8	4.7	4.6	4.0	4.4	5.6	4.8	4.1	4.5	3.3	3.5	3.8	3.5
6 years	4.0	3.8	3.5	3.2	5.3	5.1	4.9	4.5	4.8	4.6	5.4	4.5	3.7	3.6	3.2	4.0
7 years	4.9	4.5	3.7	3.3	5.3	4.7	4.1	4.5	5.3	4.8	4.3	4.2	4.4	3.6	3.3	3.4
8 years	4.7	4.7	4.5	3.9	5.4	4.8	4.7	4.8	5.3	5.1	5.2	4.5	4.7	4.6	3.8	3.5
9 years	5.2	4.8	4.3	4.0	5.1	4.9	4.9	3.7	5.2	5.4	5.1	3.9	4.7	4.3	3.9	3.8
10 years	4.5	5.4	4.6	4.6	5.1	4.9	5.1	4.7	4.4	5.1	4.5	4.2	5.4	4.7	4.6	4.4
11 years	5.1	5.2	5.4	4.7	4.5	4.9	4.7	4.3	4.2	4.5	4.8	4.4	5.2	5.5	4.8	4.3
12 years	5.8	5.4	5.2	5.7	4.9	5.0	6.0	6.0	4.4	4.6	5.1	4.8	5.3	5.2	5.6	5.2
13 years	6.8	5.9	6.1	5.9	6.1	5.6	5.3	7.1	5.1	4.0	4.3	5.2	5.9	6.1	5.9	6.8
14 years	6.7	7.6	7.0	6.8	6.0	7.0	6.5	6.5	4.7	5.1	5.4	4.9	7.6	7.1	6.7	7.3
15 years	7.8	7.6	8.2	7.8	6.1	6.5	6.8	6.0	5.2	5.3	5.6	5.0	7.6	8.3	7.9	7.4
16 years	7.5	8.1	8.2	8.8	4.0	5.1	5.6	5.3	4.3	5.1	5.1	4.7	8.1	8.2	8.8	8.6
17 years	6.2	6.4	7.0	7.5	1.0	1.4	1.1	1.4	4.7	3.7	4.1	5.3	6.4	7.0	7.5	7.8
18 years	2.5	2.2	3.1	3.0	0.0	<.1	0.1	0.2	4.8	4.7	5.1	5.6	2.2	2.9	3.0	2.8
19 years	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.6	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	1.1	0.9	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.6	1.4
20 years	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.9	0.7	0.8	1.0	0.6	0.7	0.7	1.1
Missing data	<.1	<.1	0.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.4	1.0	0.4	<.1	<.1	0.2	0.2

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
Asian	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	62.7	61.2	60.0	55.0	52.0	52.7	49.2	43.3	54.3	53.6	54.0	43.7	61.1	60.1	56.3	54.5
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	1.1	1.4	1.4	2.4	2.7	2.9	3.7	3.5	2.2	2.9	2.5	3.8	1.4	1.5	2.3	2.2
White (non-Hispanic)	35.6	36.8	37.7	40.2	44.2	43.1	45.0	49.3	42.6	42.5	41.7	49.2	36.9	37.5	40.2	40.5
Two or more races	0.1	0.3	0.4	2.0	0.6	0.5	0.9	2.9	0.3	0.3	0.9	2.5	0.3	0.5	0.5	2.3
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	2,201	2,157	1,961	1,499
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	820	753	554	602

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	3.0	2.8	2.9	2.5
1 year	6.5	6.7	6.7	6.5
2 years	6.4	6.3	6.9	8.5
3 years	4.8	6.0	6.2	6.7
4 years	5.0	5.1	5.5	5.2
5 years	4.4	4.3	5.3	4.5
6 years	4.4	4.2	4.3	6.3
7 years	5.1	4.9	4.4	4.5
8 years	6.5	5.7	4.7	3.5
9 years	6.0	5.7	5.7	5.3
10 years	7.7	6.3	5.3	6.5
11 years	6.3	7.7	6.2	5.9
12 years	7.0	6.3	7.9	6.3
13 years	5.8	7.0	6.7	7.9
14 years	7.3	5.7	7.5	6.5
15 years	6.5	7.3	5.9	7.0
16 years	5.0	4.7	4.7	3.3
17 years	1.7	2.4	2.1	1.9
18 years	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.4
19 years	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2
20+ years	0.1	<.1	0.2	0.2
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.1	<.1	<.1
Asian	0.1	<.1	0.0	<.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	63.1	63.0	60.7	61.0
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	1.0	1.3	1.5	1.2
White (non-Hispanic)	35.3	35.0	37.3	34.6
Two or more races	0.3	0.4	0.4	2.9
Unknown	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	378	384	345	280

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	2.1	2.9	1.7	1.8
1 year	4.5	6.3	7.0	6.4
2 years	11.9	9.1	9.9	10.7
3 years	9.5	11.2	11.6	13.2
4 years	10.3	6.5	7.8	13.6
5 years	10.8	10.2	8.7	9.6
6 years	5.8	7.3	7.8	5.7
7 years	9.0	5.7	6.7	4.3
8 years	6.3	8.6	7.0	6.4
9 years	7.1	4.9	6.1	5.0
10 years	4.0	5.5	7.0	5.4
11 years	4.2	4.9	6.4	3.9
12 years	5.6	4.7	3.2	6.1
13 years	4.0	3.1	4.1	2.5
14 years	2.9	2.3	2.0	0.7
15 years	0.8	2.6	1.2	2.1
16 years	0.0	2.9	1.4	0.4
17 years	0.5	1.0	0.6	1.4
18 years	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.7
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.5	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	63.5	58.3	60.3	51.4
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	1.3	1.8	1.7	2.5
White (non-Hispanic)	34.7	39.1	36.2	43.2
Two or more races	0.0	0.3	1.4	2.5
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

South Carolina [OUTCOMES DATA]

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	—	96.6	96.1	97.1
Children with one or more recurrences	—	3.4	3.9	2.9
Number	—	6,028	5,275	5,463

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	0.51	0.46	0.33
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	99.49	99.54	99.67
Number	—	7,194	7,355	7,314

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	13.2	13.1	10.5	9.1
Guardianship	0.8	1.0	0.9	0.8
Reunification	75.5	73.9	71.2	78.9
Other	10.4	8.9	9.2	11.1
Missing data	<.1	3.1	8.2	0.2
Number	3,137	3,107	3,407	3,256

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	28.3	29.5	20.8	13.2
Guardianship	1.0	0.0	0.6	0.8
Reunification	33.2	36.2	29.8	22.3
Other	37.5	32.9	40.5	63.6
Missing data	0.0	1.4	8.3	0.0
Number	304	210	168	121

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.7	0.8	0.4	0.5
Guardianship	0.7	1.4	1.6	0.2
Reunification	71.4	70.6	67.4	72.9
Other	27.1	23.7	21.8	26.1
Missing data	0.1	3.4	8.9	0.2
Number	720	725	831	842

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	37.6	35.0	38.8	39.5
Children older than 12 at entry	62.4	65.0	61.2	60.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	271	214	250	311

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/American Indian				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	11.1	22.2	0.0	0.0	9.1	0.0	14.3	0.0	15.2	14.5	11.3	10.3
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.1	0.0	0.0	0.5	1.0	0.7	0.8
Reunification	77.8	77.8	33.3	77.8	72.7	77.8	71.4	88.9	72.8	72.3	68.5	76.0
Other	11.1	0.0	50.0	22.2	18.2	11.1	14.3	11.1	11.5	9.4	10.4	12.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	16.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.9	9.1	0.2
Number	9	9	6	9	11	9	7	9	1,702	1,666	1,840	1,422

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.7	9.0	8.1	5.6	11.0	11.8	9.6	8.3
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2	0.0	1.2	1.1	1.3	0.7
Reunification	100.0	66.7	66.7	0.0	87.0	86.5	80.2	88.0	78.3	75.0	73.7	80.1
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.3	3.4	4.7	6.4	9.4	8.9	8.1	10.7
Missing data	0.0	33.3	33.3	0.0	0.0	1.1	5.8	0.0	0.1	3.3	7.3	0.1
Number	2	3	3	0	69	89	86	125	1,335	1,322	1,420	1,601

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.5	0.0	12.5	17.2	8.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	100.0	100.0	100.0	87.5	100.0	87.5	79.3	87.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1	1	16	8	8	8	29	82	0	0	0	0

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	81.8	82.1	79.3	81.7
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	12.4	12.2	12.9	12.7
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	2.8	3.1	3.7	3.5
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	0.9	1.1	1.6	1.1
48 or more mos.	1.9	1.2	2.2	0.9
Missing data	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.1
Number	2,370	2,296	2,425	2,568

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	85.0	84.3	82.9	83.3
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	6.9	6.5	5.3	7.4
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	7.9	8.0	8.3	8.7
Missing data	0.2	1.1	3.6	0.6
Number	3,172	3,405	3,537	3,410

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	3.4	3.4	3.1	3.7
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	12.6	10.5	12.3	11.5
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	23.4	23.8	23.0	25.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	18.1	23.3	24.6	24.7
48 or more mos.	42.5	38.5	37.0	34.6
Missing data	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0
Number	414	408	357	295

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	75.9	76.0	77.8	86.5	42.1	37.4	41.7	81.7	28.4	24.0	21.7	82.2	83.3	92.3	86.4	92.9
Children with 3 or more placements	24.1	24.0	22.1	13.0	57.9	62.6	58.3	17.7	71.5	76.0	78.3	17.7	16.7	7.7	4.5	0.0
Number	3,634	3,832	4,030	3,968	1,226	1,282	1,388	1,376	2,797	2,754	2,785	2,792	6	13	22	14

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	3.9	3.4	5.9	0.3
Institutions	13.4	17.0	28.7	20.5
Other settings	82.6	79.5	65.1	79.2
Missing data	<.1	0.1	0.2	0.0
Number	2,346	2,512	2,593	2,454

South Carolina [STATE COMMENT]

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of South Carolina's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, 2.9 percent of the children in South Carolina who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). Although this percent is less than the national median of 7.1 percent, it represents a decline in performance from 2001 to 2003 (-14.7 percent change). (Data for this measure are not available for 2000.)

In 2003, child maltreatment victim rate in South Carolina was 10.9 child victims per 1,000 children in the population, which is about equal to the national median of 10.6 child victims per 1,000 children in the population. This rate did not change from 2000 to 2003.

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

In 2003, 0.33 percent of the children in foster care in South Carolina were found to be maltreated by a foster parent or facility staff member (measure 2.1). This percent not only is less than the national median of 0.39 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2001 to 2003 (-35.3 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003, 88.8 percent of children exiting foster care in South Carolina (measure 3.1) were discharged to a permanent home, which exceeds the national median of 86.3 percent. Also in 2003, 73.6 percent of the children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home, which is slightly higher than the national median of 72.2 percent. However, only 36.3 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) were discharged to a permanent home, which is far less than the national median of 79.5 percent.

In 2003, 39.5 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4). This percent not only exceeds the national median of 29.6 percent, but also represents a decline in performance from 2000 (+5.1 percent change).

Some children in South Carolina exit to emancipation prior to their 18th birthday. In 2003, 257 children exiting foster care were age 18 or older at the time of discharge. However, 311 children were reported as exiting to emancipation.

There were no real differences with regard to exits to permanency as a function of children's race or ethnicity (measure 3.5). (This was assessed only when a particular race or ethnicity accounted for at least 10 percent of the exits from foster care.) White (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care were as likely to be discharged to a permanent home (89.1 percent) as were Black (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care (87.1 percent). However, the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the foster care population (54.5 percent) exceeded the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the State's population (35.5 percent).

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, 81.7 percent of reunifications in South Carolina occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1), which exceeds the national median of 72.0 percent. There was no change in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003. Also in 2003, 2.0 percent of reunifications occurred after the child had been in foster care for at least 36 months, which is less than the national median of 3.5 percent.

With regard to re-entries into foster care, in 2003, 7.4 percent of the children entering foster care were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (measure 4.2). Although this percent is less than the national median of 9.5 percent, it represents a decline in performance from 2000 (+7.2 percent change). Also in 2003, 8.7 percent of the children entering foster care were re-entering more than 12 months after a prior foster care episode. Consequently, 16.1 percent of all children entering foster care in 2003 had been in foster care at a prior time.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2003, 15.2 percent of finalized adoptions in South Carolina occurred within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 5.1). This percent not only is less than the national median of 23.9 percent, but represents a decline in performance from 2000 (-5.0 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, 86.5 percent of the children in foster care for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings (measure 6.1), which exceeds the national median of 84.2 percent. It is difficult to assess performance with regard to placement stability for children in foster care for at least 12 months but less than 24 months because of possible data quality issues.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 20.8 percent of the children entering foster care who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percent not only far exceeds the national median of 8.3 percent, but represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2000 (+20.2 percent change).

South Dakota [CONTEXT DATA]

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	201,686	197,808	197,059	195,426
Race/Ethnicity (%)¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	13.3	13.5	12.8	13.0
Asian	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.7
Black (non-Hispanic)	0.8	1.0	0.8	0.9
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.2
White (non-Hispanic)	80.6	80.3	81.4	81.0
Two or more races	2.3	2.1	2.1	2.2
% Child population in poverty	12.7	8.2	12.2	14.0

Child Welfare Summary

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	3,081	3,707	3,961	4,346
Children in foster care on 9/30	1,215	1,367	1,396	1,580
Children adopted	94	97	145	144

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information

	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	10,403	51.6 per 1,000	9,984	50.5 per 1,000	8,411	42.7 per 1,000	9,925	50.8 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	3,081	15.3 per 1,000	3,707	18.7 per 1,000	3,961	20.1 per 1,000	4,346	22.2 per 1,000
Child fatalities	6	3.0 per 100,000	2	1.0 per 100,000	5	2.5 per 100,000	5	2.6 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	4.1	4.8	4.9	10.2
1-5 years	28.6	29.8	29.7	33.3
6-10 years	30.2	29.0	31.6	30.0
11-15 years	24.4	23.7	24.4	21.1
16+ years	10.5	10.1	8.1	4.5
Unknown	2.3	2.6	1.4	0.9
Number	3,081	3,707	3,961	4,346

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁵

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	11.3	18.3	23.4	17.7
Medical neglect	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Neglect	70.3	78.9	84.4	73.1
Physical abuse	21.5	19.7	20.7	20.8
Sexual abuse	6.3	4.6	4.7	4.2
Unknown/missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	3,081	3,707	3,961	4,346

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)⁴

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	45.4	45.1	41.5	35.6
Asian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.4
White (non-Hispanic)	48.0	45.1	44.9	44.0
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.5
Unknown	6.6	9.8	13.6	10.7
Number	3,081	3,707	3,961	4,346

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	816	1,182	1,201	1,253	1,441	1,357	1,348	1,370	1,042	1,173	1,153	1,043	1,215	1,367	1,396	1,580
Median length of stay (months)	11.3	11.3	15.0	16.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.2	2.8	2.9	3.0	8.3	12.4	13.7	12.6

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	5.5	5.4	2.7	3.8	12.8	11.3	13.7	11.6	9.7	8.2	8.2	6.3	6.1	3.1	3.8	4.3
1 year	5.6	5.5	6.5	5.8	7.2	7.4	7.4	10.7	6.5	6.9	7.4	8.0	6.1	6.8	6.2	7.4
2 years	6.0	5.2	5.7	5.9	7.5	8.4	7.0	9.1	7.8	9.3	7.6	8.3	6.7	5.6	5.6	7.2
3 years	5.4	5.8	5.6	5.4	6.7	8.3	6.7	6.6	7.0	7.7	7.3	7.8	6.1	5.6	5.8	6.6
4 years	5.6	4.8	5.9	4.9	5.8	7.1	6.5	6.7	7.1	6.6	7.0	7.3	5.3	6.2	4.7	4.7
5 years	4.5	5.2	5.5	5.8	5.6	6.3	6.3	5.8	4.9	6.6	7.2	6.9	5.3	5.5	6.2	4.1
6 years	6.1	4.5	4.7	5.1	6.2	6.1	6.2	6.6	6.1	6.4	6.2	6.2	5.0	4.8	5.0	5.9
7 years	5.8	6.1	5.3	4.7	6.1	5.0	5.7	5.3	6.4	5.5	6.5	5.7	5.9	4.7	4.6	5.1
8 years	6.1	5.3	5.8	5.0	3.9	4.8	5.0	5.3	5.3	4.5	5.2	5.5	5.0	5.6	5.0	4.9
9 years	4.9	5.3	5.7	4.9	5.4	5.5	5.2	4.6	4.6	5.6	4.9	4.1	4.9	5.1	5.2	4.4
10 years	5.9	5.2	4.6	5.6	4.9	4.6	4.5	3.9	4.7	4.4	4.6	4.5	4.9	5.1	5.4	5.2
11 years	5.3	6.2	5.8	5.2	4.6	4.5	4.7	4.7	4.3	4.0	4.5	3.9	6.9	5.3	5.2	5.5
12 years	5.6	5.2	6.2	5.5	3.8	4.6	4.5	4.7	3.2	3.5	4.1	4.7	4.8	6.4	5.4	5.3
13 years	5.0	6.2	6.4	6.7	3.9	4.7	4.5	3.6	3.1	3.9	3.8	2.7	5.7	6.1	6.5	5.7
14 years	6.6	5.9	6.3	6.2	4.9	3.5	3.5	4.1	4.2	3.2	3.5	4.3	5.2	6.7	6.3	5.9
15 years	5.1	7.4	5.6	6.9	4.6	3.3	3.3	3.1	5.0	3.9	2.8	2.9	6.3	5.4	6.6	5.8
16 years	5.1	5.2	6.6	5.8	4.3	3.1	3.7	2.3	4.4	3.6	3.0	1.6	4.8	6.5	5.6	6.5
17 years	4.5	4.7	4.5	6.0	1.5	1.1	1.4	1.5	3.2	2.5	3.5	6.2	4.1	4.5	5.7	4.4
18 years	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	2.1	3.2	2.5	2.7	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.9
19 years	0.2	0.0	<.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	<.1	<.1	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.1	<.1
20 years	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1
Missing data	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.1	<.1	<.1	0.3	0.0	<.1	0.2	<.1	0.1	0.0

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	63.4	61.4	59.8	55.7	59.7	59.8	57.9	54.2	60.3	59.7	58.7	53.5	61.6	61.3	58.8	55.8
Asian	0.1	0.0	0.4	<.1	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.2	<.1	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	2.3	1.4	1.2	2.3	2.2	1.5	2.4	2.0	2.9	1.2	1.3	2.6	1.6	1.6	2.3	1.8
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	3.6	3.6	3.9	5.7	4.2	4.7	5.1	6.4	4.1	4.6	4.3	6.3	3.9	3.8	4.7	5.8
White (non-Hispanic)	29.0	30.8	30.9	32.0	31.3	29.3	30.6	32.4	30.8	30.9	30.5	34.1	30.2	29.3	30.9	30.9
Two or more races	1.2	2.6	3.7	4.2	2.0	2.7	3.6	4.7	1.1	2.0	4.5	3.2	2.3	3.2	2.9	5.3
Unknown	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.5	1.6	0.4	0.0	0.8	1.6	0.4	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children "Waiting for Adoption"⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	297	404	439	454
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	200	325	382	426

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	4.0	3.0	1.1	1.5
1 year	7.1	6.4	5.0	2.9
2 years	7.7	8.7	6.2	5.9
3 years	6.1	4.2	7.5	6.2
4 years	5.1	4.5	4.6	4.2
5 years	7.1	4.5	5.7	3.5
6 years	4.0	5.4	4.1	7.0
7 years	6.7	5.2	3.6	5.1
8 years	6.4	6.9	6.6	4.4
9 years	5.1	5.7	5.9	5.9
10 years	5.7	5.7	6.8	6.2
11 years	8.1	6.4	6.2	6.4
12 years	5.1	8.2	6.8	6.6
13 years	7.4	6.4	7.7	6.2
14 years	4.7	6.7	6.4	8.8
15 years	7.1	4.7	6.4	6.8
16 years	1.7	4.5	3.9	7.0
17 years	0.7	2.2	4.1	4.2
18 years	0.0	0.5	1.1	0.9
19 years	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	55.2	58.2	54.0	48.5
Asian	0.0	0.2	0.5	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	2.7	2.0	2.3	1.3
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	5.1	3.0	4.8	6.2
White (non-Hispanic)	35.4	33.9	34.2	37.2
Two or more races	1.7	2.7	4.3	6.6
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	94	97	145	144

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	4.3	2.1	1.4	0.0
1 year	10.6	5.2	6.2	4.2
2 years	13.8	12.4	17.9	9.7
3 years	7.4	16.5	11.7	18.1
4 years	10.6	8.2	9.0	12.5
5 years	12.8	9.3	9.7	9.0
6 years	5.3	13.4	8.3	6.9
7 years	3.2	8.2	9.0	9.0
8 years	7.4	6.2	4.8	4.9
9 years	5.3	6.2	4.8	6.3
10 years	5.3	3.1	4.1	4.2
11 years	5.3	1.0	4.8	4.2
12 years	4.3	2.1	2.8	3.5
13 years	1.1	1.0	3.4	2.1
14 years	1.1	3.1	0.7	3.5
15 years	2.1	0.0	0.7	1.4
16 years	0.0	2.1	0.7	0.0
17 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7
18 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	51.1	41.2	56.6	53.5
Asian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	0.0	2.1	0.7	4.9
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	6.4	11.3	4.1	6.3
White (non-Hispanic)	37.2	41.2	34.5	29.9
Two or more races	5.3	4.1	4.1	5.6
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

South Dakota [OUTCOMES DATA]

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—	85.6
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—	14.4
Number	—	—	—	1,757

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	0.68
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	99.32
Number	—	—	—	2,359

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	8.3	10.7	14.9	14.4
Guardianship	3.9	4.7	3.8	4.9
Reunification	76.6	69.7	61.5	66.8
Other	8.3	12.4	9.5	13.9
Missing data	2.9	2.5	10.3	0.0
Number	1,042	1,173	1,153	1,043

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	29.1	29.2	33.1	23.0
Guardianship	4.5	6.9	4.8	6.8
Reunification	37.3	33.8	36.3	37.3
Other	20.9	26.9	20.2	32.9
Missing data	8.2	3.1	5.6	0.0
Number	110	130	124	161

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	1.0	0.0	1.1	0.6
Guardianship	5.6	3.8	2.7	3.2
Reunification	73.2	67.6	59.6	62.0
Other	15.7	23.8	28.4	34.2
Missing data	4.5	4.9	8.2	0.0
Number	198	185	183	158

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	21.7	26.2	9.8	31.0
Children older than 12 at entry	78.3	73.8	90.2	69.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	23	42	41	58

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/American Indian				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	6.5	7.1	12.6	13.6	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	6.7	42.9	13.3	25.9
Guardianship	4.6	4.9	3.2	7.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.7
Reunification	76.8	70.9	61.4	62.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	83.3	42.9	73.3	70.4
Other	9.1	14.1	9.9	15.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	14.3	13.3	0.0
Missing data	3.0	3.0	12.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	628	700	677	558	1	0	2	2	30	14	15	27

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.6	20.4	12.0	13.6	11.2	14.4	19.9	14.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9	4.0	1.5	3.4	4.7	4.8	1.1
Reunification	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	67.4	66.7	62.0	68.2	76.9	69.6	61.4	73.3
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	16.3	11.1	12.0	16.7	5.6	9.1	7.4	11.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.7	0.0	10.0	0.0	2.8	2.2	6.5	0.0
Number	0	1	0	1	43	54	50	66	321	362	352	356

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	12.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.1	30.4	13.5	24.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	12.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.0	5.8	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	75.0	84.2	80.0	0.0	81.8	43.5	59.6	60.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	15.8	20.0	0.0	9.1	13.0	13.5	12.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	8	19	5	0	11	23	52	33	0	0	0	0

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	84.0	86.5	88.3	84.8
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	6.8	7.1	6.1	6.7
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1.3	2.1	2.8	1.6
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	0.9	0.7	0.3	0.6
48 or more mos.	0.5	0.5	0.8	1.1
Missing data	6.6	3.1	1.7	5.2
Number	798	817	709	697

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	65.9	69.0	71.2	74.2
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	14.4	16.7	19.9	16.8
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	17.8	14.0	8.5	8.0
Missing data	1.8	0.4	0.4	1.0
Number	1,441	1,357	1,348	1,370

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	31.0	26.2	19.2	8.7
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	41.4	31.0	28.5	24.7
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	19.5	20.6	34.9	29.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	2.3	11.1	8.1	24.0
48 or more mos.	5.7	11.1	9.3	13.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	87	126	172	150

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	85.3	84.7	81.8	81.5	58.0	57.4	54.2	51.6	44.2	49.1	28.5	23.4	92.3	96.2	100.0	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	13.8	15.1	16.7	18.5	41.7	42.3	45.8	48.4	55.8	50.9	71.5	76.2	1.5	3.8	0.0	0.0
Number	1,529	1,544	1,487	1,486	319	470	406	407	344	499	632	688	65	26	24	42

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	1.2	1.7	3.5	2.3
Institutions	15.3	13.7	16.7	17.8
Other settings	83.3	84.6	79.9	79.7
Missing data	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.2
Number	1,108	1,110	1,093	1,081

South Dakota [STATE COMMENT]

Virgena Wieseler, Division Director
Child Protection Services
Department of Social Services

The following are South Dakota's comments on the State data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2003: Report to Congress*.

Section C (Children in Foster Care): The reason the number in care as of 10-01-02 is different than what was reported on 09-30-02 was due to an incorrect extraction method regarding the use of the transaction date. The State has taken corrective measures to resolve the problem.

Outcome measure 1.1 (Recurrence of Maltreatment): Both substantiated and indicated findings were included in the data. States without indicated would have a lower recurrence rate. The policy regarding duplicate reports was broad and included findings of reports assigned within the time period of the previous report still being investigated.

Outcome Measure 3.4 (Exits to Emancipation): The drastic reduction in FY2002 appears to have been an AFCARS reporting problem which we believe has been corrected.

Outcome Measure 4.2 (Re-entry into Foster Care): The State was counting trial reunifications as discharges. Corrective measures have been taken to correct this issue.

Outcome Measure 5.1 (Time to Adoption): In FY 2000 the state was incorrectly reporting adoptive placements as adoption discharges. This issue has now been corrected.

Outcome Measure 6.1 (Number of Placements): The increase in percentage of children experiencing 3 or more placements is attributed to more accurate reporting of placements.

Outcome Measure 7.1 (Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions): The increase in the number of children (age 12 and younger) needing group home or institutional care is attributed to increasing needs of children coming into care and lack of adequate community based mental health services to families.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of South Dakota's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, 14.4 percent of the children in South Dakota who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percent exceeds the national median of 7.1 percent. Change in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 cannot be assessed because 2003 is the first year that data for this measure were available.

South Dakota's relatively high percentage of children experiencing maltreatment recurrence in 2003 corresponds to a relatively high child maltreatment victim rate in the State. In 2003, the child maltreatment victim rate was 22.2 child victims per 1,000 children in the State population, which exceeds the national median of 10.6 child victims per 1,000 children in the population. The 2003 victim rate also represents an increase from 2000, when there were 15.3 child victims per 1,000 children in the population.

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

In 2003, 0.68 percent of the children in foster care in South Dakota were found to be maltreated by a foster parent or facility staff member (measure 2.1). This percent exceeds the national median of 0.39 percent. Change in performance from 2000 to 2003 cannot be assessed because 2003 is the first year that data for this measure were available.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003, 86.1 percent of children exiting foster care in South Dakota (measure 3.1) were discharged to a permanent home, which is about equal to the national median of 86.3 percent. However, only 67.1 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) were discharged to a permanent home, which is less than the national median of 79.5 percent. Furthermore, only 65.8 percent of the children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home, which is less than the national median of 72.2 percent.

In 2003, 31.0 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4). Although this percent is about equal to the national median of 29.6 percent, performance on this measure declined from 2000 to 2003 (+42.9 percent change).

There were slight differences with regard to exits to permanency as a function of children's race or ethnicity (measure 3.5). (This was assessed only when a particular race or ethnicity accounted for at least 10 percent of the exits from foster care.) White (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care were slightly more likely to be discharged to a permanent home (88.4 percent) than were Alaska Native/American Indian children exiting foster care (84.2 percent). Also, the percent of Alaska Native/American Indian children in the foster care population (55.8 percent) was more than four times the percent of those children in the State's child population (13.0 percent).

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, 84.8 percent of reunifications in South Dakota occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1), which exceeds the national median of 72.0 percent. Performance with regard to this measure did not change from 2000 to 2003. In addition, 2.7 percent of reunifications occurred after the child had been in foster care for at least 36 months, which is less than the national median of 3.5 percent.

South Dakota's relatively high percent of reunifications occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care corresponds to a relatively high percentage of re-entries into foster care. In 2003, 16.8 percent of the children entering foster care in South Dakota were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (measure 4.2). This percent not only exceeds the national median of 9.5 percent, but also represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (+16.7 percent change). In addition, 8.0 percent of the children entering foster care were entering more than 12 months after a prior foster care episode. Consequently, 24.8 percent of all children entering foster care in 2003 had been in foster care at a prior time.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2003, 33.4 percent of finalized adoptions in South Dakota occurred within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 5.1). Although this percent exceeds the national median of 23.9 percent, it represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2000 (+33.4 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, 81.5 percent of the children in foster care for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings (measure 6.1), which is less than the national median of 84.2 percent. Also in 2003, 51.6 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months, experienced no more than two placement settings, which is less than the national median of 59.1 percent. There was a decline in placement stability of 29.9 percentage points for children in foster care for 12 to 24 months compared to children in foster care for less than 12 months.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 20.1 percent of the children entering foster care who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage not only exceeds the national median of 8.3 percent, but also represents a decline in performance from 2000 to 2003 (+21.8 percent change).

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	1,397,741	1,396,879	1,394,609	1,394,479
Race/Ethnicity (%) ¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	21.1	21.2	20.7	20.7
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	2.8	2.9	2.9	3.1
White (non-Hispanic)	73.0	73.0	73.5	73.2
Two or more races	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.6
% Child population in poverty	20.2	20.4	20.0	18.7

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	16,572	9,571	8,494	9,421
Children in foster care on 9/30	10,144	9,679	9,359	9,487
Children adopted	431	646	922	954

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	51,917	37.1 per 1,000	50,870	36.4 per 1,000	37,525	26.9 per 1,000	46,522	33.4 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	16,572	11.9 per 1,000	9,571	6.8 per 1,000	8,494	6.1 per 1,000	9,421	6.8 per 1,000
Child fatalities	3	0.2 per 100,000	13	0.9 per 100,000	18	1.3 per 100,000	24	1.7 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	9.9	10.8	10.3	12.3
1-5 years	30.9	31.1	30.8	30.4
6-10 years	29.4	28.7	27.9	27.4
11-15 years	24.0	24.2	24.5	24.0
16+ years	5.7	5.1	6.4	5.5
Unknown	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3
Number	16,572	9,571	8,494	9,421

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1
Asian	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	30.4	29.8	27.8	25.6
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	1.0	1.9	2.4	3.1
White (non-Hispanic)	64.2	57.0	60.0	57.4
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	4.0	16.8	9.3	13.5
Number	16,572	9,571	8,494	9,421

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	2.3	1.1	1.4	0.6
Medical neglect	3.3	2.8	7.2	2.1
Neglect	42.9	39.5	45.0	49.3
Physical abuse	20.0	16.4	34.0	32.7
Sexual abuse	21.0	24.4	26.2	24.6
Unknown/missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	10.5	20.0	6.0	0.3
Number	16,572	9,571	8,494	9,421

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	9,033	9,101	8,755	7,470	5,480	5,667	6,047	6,305	4,370	5,089	5,443	4,288	10,144	9,679	9,359	9,487
Median length of stay (months)	17.9	17.4	16.5	15.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	11.8	12.0	11.7	12.3	16.8	15.6	13.2	11.4

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	2.7	2.6	2.8	3.6	7.8	8.6	9.4	9.3	2.3	3.2	3.6	3.5	2.5	2.8	3.3	3.8
1 year	3.4	3.7	3.3	4.0	3.4	3.5	3.7	4.3	2.6	3.5	3.5	4.4	3.6	3.2	3.5	4.2
2 years	3.6	3.8	3.8	4.0	3.1	3.0	3.5	4.5	2.9	3.4	3.6	4.0	3.6	3.6	3.5	4.1
3 years	3.6	3.7	3.8	4.1	2.6	3.0	3.2	3.8	3.0	3.4	3.5	4.1	3.4	3.6	3.7	4.1
4 years	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.9	2.4	2.6	2.9	3.4	2.9	3.1	3.7	3.7	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.9
5 years	3.2	3.5	3.5	3.5	2.4	2.6	2.7	3.4	1.9	2.9	3.1	4.0	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.5
6 years	3.5	3.3	3.5	3.6	1.9	2.5	2.3	3.1	2.4	2.5	3.1	3.9	3.2	3.3	3.1	3.2
7 years	3.6	3.4	3.3	3.3	2.5	2.2	2.2	3.0	2.3	2.5	2.8	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.1
8 years	4.1	4.0	3.6	3.3	2.6	2.9	2.1	3.1	2.7	2.7	2.6	3.5	3.7	3.4	2.9	3.3
9 years	3.6	4.2	4.1	4.0	2.5	2.4	2.6	3.0	2.5	2.7	2.9	3.4	3.8	3.8	3.6	2.9
10 years	4.2	4.0	4.3	4.1	2.9	2.3	2.7	3.0	2.3	2.7	3.4	3.4	3.6	4.0	3.6	3.6
11 years	3.8	4.6	4.1	4.6	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.4	2.5	2.8	2.9	3.5	4.3	3.8	3.9	3.8
12 years	4.2	4.4	4.8	5.0	4.3	3.8	4.1	4.4	2.2	2.8	3.0	3.7	4.1	4.6	4.4	4.5
13 years	5.6	5.6	5.6	6.3	6.2	5.5	5.6	5.8	3.1	3.6	3.2	4.5	5.4	5.3	5.9	5.6
14 years	7.3	7.7	7.2	7.3	10.3	9.2	9.3	8.1	5.4	4.4	5.4	4.2	7.6	7.1	7.4	7.5
15 years	9.9	9.6	10.6	9.1	12.9	13.2	12.2	11.0	8.0	8.4	7.5	5.6	9.7	10.7	9.7	10.1
16 years	12.7	12.6	12.6	11.8	15.6	16.1	14.7	12.6	11.3	10.7	10.7	6.9	12.5	12.7	13.2	12.4
17 years	13.3	13.4	12.9	12.2	13.1	13.0	13.2	10.5	17.9	15.3	17.5	20.6	14.4	14.1	14.4	13.7
18 years	3.2	2.3	2.5	2.2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	18.9	18.1	12.8	9.4	4.2	4.1	4.2	2.8
19 years	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.2	1.4	1.3	0.7	0.5	<.1	<.1	<.1
20 years	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1
Asian	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	40.0	38.1	36.2	35.1	30.4	28.1	27.4	27.1	31.5	30.9	29.8	27.8	38.4	36.0	34.2	33.1
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	1.6	1.9	2.2	2.9	2.4	2.9	3.6	3.7	2.2	2.8	3.0	4.2	1.8	2.0	2.7	2.8
White (non-Hispanic)	56.7	57.5	58.6	59.0	64.5	65.3	66.2	65.2	64.8	63.6	64.2	65.1	57.4	58.8	60.2	60.4
Two or more races	1.2	1.8	2.3	2.4	1.0	2.0	1.4	1.4	0.3	1.7	1.6	1.9	1.4	1.9	2.1	2.0
Unknown	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.9	1.1	0.9	2.3	0.5	0.4	0.8	0.7	0.4	0.7	0.3	1.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	2,032	2,287	2,346	1,974
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	374	478	441	463

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	1.5	1.8	1.8	1.2
1 year	3.9	3.1	3.1	3.3
2 years	5.5	4.9	4.5	4.8
3 years	5.7	6.3	5.5	4.6
4 years	5.9	6.3	5.6	5.0
5 years	6.4	5.9	5.7	4.6
6 years	6.2	6.3	5.4	5.0
7 years	6.5	6.1	5.5	4.8
8 years	7.5	6.1	4.9	4.5
9 years	8.1	6.8	6.4	4.3
10 years	7.7	7.8	6.8	5.5
11 years	7.4	7.0	7.1	6.4
12 years	6.8	7.4	7.1	7.1
13 years	6.3	6.9	8.0	7.6
14 years	5.5	6.0	7.2	8.7
15 years	3.4	5.9	6.6	7.9
16 years	3.1	3.1	5.5	8.2
17 years	1.8	2.1	2.9	6.0
18 years	0.7	0.2	0.4	0.5
19 years	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.2
Asian	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	45.8	43.4	39.6	40.6
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	1.9	1.8	3.1	2.9
White (non-Hispanic)	49.6	51.6	53.7	51.9
Two or more races	2.3	2.4	2.9	3.7
Unknown	<.1	0.3	<.1	0.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	431	646	922	954

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	0.5	1.1	1.6	1.0
1 year	5.1	6.7	4.0	4.8
2 years	5.1	7.6	5.7	5.8
3 years	8.8	6.0	7.8	6.3
4 years	10.4	7.9	8.4	8.0
5 years	5.8	7.1	7.9	8.0
6 years	8.8	7.0	8.0	7.1
7 years	6.5	7.7	7.3	6.5
8 years	9.5	7.3	6.7	6.8
9 years	9.0	7.6	6.1	7.2
10 years	6.7	7.9	7.7	6.6
11 years	5.8	6.3	5.7	6.7
12 years	5.1	6.2	5.9	5.9
13 years	3.9	4.6	3.6	5.2
14 years	3.5	1.5	5.9	3.5
15 years	2.1	2.8	3.8	4.2
16 years	1.2	2.6	2.3	2.8
17 years	1.9	0.8	1.2	2.4
18 years	0.2	1.2	0.3	1.2
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2
Asian	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	38.3	31.0	35.5	30.2
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	3.0	4.5	3.5	4.3
White (non-Hispanic)	56.1	57.0	53.8	57.0
Two or more races	1.4	7.3	6.3	8.1
Unknown	1.2	0.2	0.5	0.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—	96.6
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—	3.4
Number	—	—	—	3,992

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	8.1	12.7	16.5	22.0
Guardianship	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3
Reunification	72.1	71.1	70.9	58.9
Other	16.0	14.1	11.1	18.6
Missing data	3.6	2.0	1.2	0.1
Number	4,370	5,089	5,443	4,288

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	24.4	43.4	50.0	50.4
Guardianship	0.0	0.3	0.4	0.6
Reunification	52.0	41.8	37.8	27.1
Other	20.0	13.5	11.1	21.9
Missing data	3.6	1.0	0.7	0.0
Number	225	392	458	494

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	<.1	0.2	0.4	1.4
Guardianship	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.3
Reunification	73.6	74.4	78.8	61.3
Other	22.0	22.3	18.6	36.9
Missing data	4.2	3.0	2.1	0.1
Number	2,599	2,793	2,779	1,832

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	17.8	12.7	11.1	15.7
Children older than 12 at entry	82.2	87.3	88.9	84.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	596	581	488	658

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	30.8	0.0	4.8	22.2	0.0	7.8	13.9	20.0	26.1
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.5	0.7
Reunification	72.7	87.5	90.9	69.2	75.0	66.7	55.6	80.0	70.1	68.2	67.4	52.4
Other	18.2	0.0	9.1	0.0	18.8	28.6	16.7	20.0	17.6	15.8	11.1	20.8
Missing data	9.1	12.5	0.0	0.0	6.3	0.0	5.6	0.0	4.4	2.0	1.0	0.2
Number	11	8	11	13	16	21	18	5	1,378	1,571	1,623	1,190

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.4	15.4	14.8	25.0	8.2	11.7	14.7	19.8
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2	0.0	0.2	0.2	<.1	0.1
Reunification	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	69.8	69.9	77.8	61.7	73.0	72.5	72.4	61.4
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.5	12.6	4.3	13.3	15.6	13.5	11.5	18.5
Missing data	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.3	2.1	1.9	0.0	2.9	2.0	1.3	0.1
Number	1	2	0	0	96	143	162	180	2,833	3,237	3,496	2,791

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	13.6	4.4	3.6	21.4	22.4	35.2	38.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	85.0	72.7	86.7	89.3	71.4	69.4	52.3	51.9	100.0	0.0	0.0	<.1
Other	0.0	9.1	6.7	7.1	7.1	7.1	11.4	9.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	15.0	4.5	2.2	0.0	0.0	1.2	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	20	22	45	28	14	85	88	81	1	0	0	0

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	61.3	62.5	65.0	72.4
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	23.4	23.4	22.7	19.2
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	6.9	7.7	6.5	4.5
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	3.5	3.1	2.4	1.8
48 or more mos.	4.0	3.0	3.1	1.8
Missing data	0.9	0.3	0.4	0.3
Number	3,150	3,617	3,857	2,527

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	83.1	81.9	81.2	82.8
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	10.1	11.0	11.1	9.5
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	6.8	7.0	7.7	7.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1
Number	5,480	5,667	6,047	6,305

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	3.1	1.7	2.4	2.8
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	7.4	12.1	9.3	11.0
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	17.3	13.7	16.4	18.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	19.5	16.3	16.8	17.8
48 or more mos.	52.4	56.1	55.1	50.2
Missing data	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0
Number	353	644	899	944

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	61.1	61.0	64.9	72.3	47.4	40.4	35.3	39.1	55.0	49.0	39.8	31.4	34.5	50.0	57.1	83.3
Children with 3 or more placements	32.4	36.8	32.5	26.8	49.6	58.8	64.2	60.4	42.4	50.4	59.6	68.2	0.0	4.5	2.4	4.8
Number	6,334	6,726	7,110	6,998	2,950	2,981	2,990	2,706	5,172	5,039	4,660	4,029	58	22	42	42

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	5.9	4.6	2.3	0.9
Institutions	7.6	4.2	2.2	1.6
Other settings	86.4	91.2	95.5	97.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,987	2,296	2,526	3,191

Thomas Riche, Deputy Commissioner
Tennessee Department of Children's Services

The following are Tennessee's comments on the State's data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2003: Report to Congress*.

Section C (Children in Foster Care): As a result of AFCARS files being created as point-in-time files the possibility will always exist for a difference in the number of active cases on the last day of one reporting cycle and the number of active cases in care on the first day of the next reporting cycle. Tennessee's child welfare system includes both child welfare and juvenile justice programs. As a result, AFCARS numbers may be influenced by some juvenile justices cases that were a part of the child welfare program for only a brief period of time during one reporting year and not the next. Also, any child welfare cases that reach the age of 18 before the start of an AFCARS period are excluded from the next report period. Any juvenile justice cases reaching the age of 19 prior to the start of a new period are also excluded from the next report period.

Section D (Children Waiting to be Adopted): The low percentage of cases reporting termination of parental rights are the result of Tennessee having to pull data for AFCARS Adoptions from a source outside of our SACWIS system. State requirements on confidentiality of finalized adoption cases prevented data entry into our SACWIS system due to the system's inability to restrict the data from unauthorized persons. As a result of collecting AFCARS adoption data manually staff did not enter the TPR data into the SACWIS system, for use in the AFCARS Foster Care file, with a great deal of accuracy.

Tennessee's SACWIS system was updated in January 2005 to include AFCARS Adoption data elements. Beginning with the current AFCARS period, April - Sept 2005, both AFCARS Foster Care and Adoption files will be generated by our SACWIS system. With restricted access available to adoption workers, and all AFCARS data elements coming from one system, it is our belief that termination of parental rights will be reported more completely and more accurately than they have been in the past in the AFCARS Foster Care file.

Due to several system reforms undertaken by the Department in recent years, DCS has made improvements in a number of areas. Based on our state's calculations using our submitted March 2005 AFCARS file we show our percentages for outcome 3.3 to be 25.2 percent, in line with the national median, and our percentage for outcome 5.1 to have decreased to 30.5 percent from the 50.2 percent reported in FY 2003. Clearly our department has made great strides in both areas since FY 2003.

Outcome 7 (Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions): We continue to maintain a percentage on outcome 7.1 lower than the national median. Based on our state's calculations using our submitted March 2005 AFCARS file we show our percentage to be 1.1 percent. Due to requirements in the federal consent decrees, the department had to move these children into home settings and only use a group home or institution for children 12 and under in the most dire of circumstances.

All the CPS data contained within the report is sourced from NCANDS and was reported to them from our offices: 2000 and 2001 data would, at best, have been generated through hand counts of records. Their accuracy should be seriously questioned as it would be impossible to duplicate the numbers. These two years would have had the total counts submitted to NCANDS through the agency file: 2002 data came from an "Annual Report" created with one of the first CPS data extracts pulled from TNKIDS. This report was done for the purpose of simply giving a general evaluation where CPS stood at the time. While these results were system data, it was not prepared and analyzed using true NCANDS parameters and only the totals were reported in the Agency File. While not meeting exact NCANDS parameters, the victim data is a very reasonable indicator of how true NCANDS data would have measured out. The 2003 data is the result of the first true Child File detail level report submitted to NCANDS from Tennessee. The data are qualified and analyzed according to a documented process. As such, it should be considered the benchmark for future report years.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of Tennessee's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, 3.4 percent of the children who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1), which is less than the national median of 7.1 percent. Change in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 cannot be assessed because 2003 was the first year that data were available for the measure.

Tennessee's relatively low percentage of children experiencing maltreatment recurrence in 2003 corresponds to a relatively low child maltreatment victim rate in the State. In 2003, the child maltreatment victim rate in Tennessee was 6.8 child victims per 1,000 children in the State population, which is less than the national median of 10.6 child victims per 1,000 children in the population. Also, the 2003 child victim rate is lower than the rate in 2000 of 11.9 child victims per 1,000 children in the population).

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

Tennessee's performance with regard to achieving outcome 2 cannot be assessed because the State does not provide data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) for calculating the measure for this outcome (measure 2.1). To ensure consistency across States, the Report to Congress provides only data submitted through NCANDS.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003, 81.2 percent of children exiting foster care in Tennessee (measure 3.1) were discharged to a permanent home, which is less than the national median of 86.3 percent. Also, 63.0 percent of the children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home, which is less than the national median of 72.2 percent. However, 78.1 percent of children exiting care in 2003 who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) were discharged to a permanent home, which is about equal to the national median of 79.5 percent.

In 2003, 15.7 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4). This percent not only is less than the national median of 29.6 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (-11.8 percent change).

Some children in Tennessee who are reported as emancipated from foster care appear to be discharged from foster care prior to their 18th birthday. In 2003, for example, 433 children exiting foster care were age 18 or older at the time of exit. However, 658 children were reported as exiting to emancipation.

There were no real differences with regard to exits to permanency as a function of children's race or ethnicity (measure 3.5). (This was assessed only when a particular race or ethnicity accounted for at least 10 percent of the exits from foster care.) White (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care were as likely to be discharged to a permanent home (81.3 percent) as were Black (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care (79.2 percent). However, the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the foster care population (33.1 percent) exceeded the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the State's child population (20.7 percent).

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, 72.4 percent of reunifications in Tennessee occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1). This percent is about equal to the national median of 72.0 percent, and represents an improvement in performance from 2000 (18.1 percent change). In addition, 3.6 percent of reunifications occurred after the child had been in foster care for at least 36 months, which also is about equal to the national median of 3.5 percent.

In 2003, 9.5 percent of the children entering foster care were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode, which is equal to the national median of 9.5 percent (measure 4.2). Tennessee's performance on this measure improved from 2000 to 2003 (-5.9 percent change). However, an additional 7.6 percent of the children entering foster care were entering more than 12 months after a prior foster care episode. Consequently, 17.1 percent of all children entering foster care in 2003 had been in foster care at a prior time.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2003, 13.8 percent of finalized adoptions in Tennessee occurred within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 5.1). Although this percent is less than the national median of 23.9 percent, it represents an improvement in performance on the measure from 2000 to 2003 (+31.4 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, only 72.3 percent of the children in foster care for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings (measure 6.1), which is less than the national median of 84.2 percent. Also in 2003, 39.1 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months, experienced no more than two placement settings, which is less than the national median of 59.1 percent.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, only 2.5 percent of the children entering foster care who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage not only is less than the national median of 8.3 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2000 (-81.5 percent change).

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	5,908,143	6,037,615	6,147,775	6,240,162
Race/Ethnicity (%)¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Asian	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	12.4	12.4	12.0	11.9
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	40.5	41.3	41.1	41.8
White (non-Hispanic)	42.6	42.2	42.8	42.2
Two or more races	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.3
% Child population in poverty	20.9	21.1	22.0	24.0

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	45,800	44,623	48,808	50,522
Children in foster care on 9/30	18,190	19,739	21,353	22,191
Children adopted	2,045	2,325	2,299	2,504

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	193,966	32.8 per 1,000	197,838	32.8 per 1,000	210,375	34.2 per 1,000	215,602	34.5 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	45,800	7.8 per 1,000	44,623	7.4 per 1,000	48,808	7.9 per 1,000	50,522	8.1 per 1,000
Child fatalities	177	3.0 per 100,000	206	3.4 per 100,000	206	3.3 per 100,000	203	3.3 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	11.3	12.5	12.0	13.2
1-5 years	30.3	34.6	35.1	36.3
6-10 years	26.2	28.9	28.1	26.8
11-15 years	18.5	20.4	20.6	20.2
16+ years	3.0	3.4	4.1	3.5
Unknown	10.8	0.1	0.1	0.0
Number	45,800	44,623	48,808	50,522

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2
Asian	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	20.4	19.4	18.7	17.8
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	36.6	38.7	39.3	40.4
White (non-Hispanic)	38.7	37.6	37.5	37.3
Two or more races	2.0	2.1	2.4	2.4
Unknown	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.4
Number	45,800	44,623	48,808	50,522

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	3.4	3.0	2.5	2.1
Medical neglect	4.7	4.9	4.8	4.8
Neglect	59.3	60.6	61.7	63.8
Physical abuse	28.2	27.7	26.9	26.9
Sexual abuse	14.6	14.8	15.4	14.6
Unknown/missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	1.4	1.1	0.9	0.0
Number	45,800	44,623	48,808	50,522

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	16,303	17,914	18,695	20,609	9,869	10,680	11,766	11,824	7,989	8,858	9,108	10,242	18,190	19,739	21,353	22,191
Median length of stay (months)	15.8	14.4	13.6	13.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	13.6	14.0	13.7	14.4	13.6	13.5	13.2	13.8

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	6.8	7.0	7.2	7.6	20.7	20.7	20.9	21.9	5.6	5.5	5.6	5.4	7.4	7.4	7.6	7.6
1 year	6.4	7.1	7.7	8.0	8.3	8.9	8.8	9.4	10.4	11.1	11.3	11.9	7.3	7.8	8.1	8.4
2 years	5.5	5.8	6.4	6.5	7.0	7.5	7.3	7.7	8.2	8.6	9.8	10.1	6.0	6.4	6.5	6.7
3 years	5.0	5.1	5.6	5.6	6.2	6.3	6.5	7.1	7.0	7.1	7.8	7.9	5.2	5.6	5.7	6.0
4 years	4.7	5.0	4.8	5.2	5.8	5.5	5.6	6.3	5.5	6.1	6.1	6.7	5.1	4.8	5.3	5.5
5 years	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.5	5.2	5.0	5.2	5.3	5.0	5.8	5.6	5.7	4.7	4.8	4.6	5.0
6 years	4.6	4.5	4.3	4.7	5.2	4.6	4.4	5.1	5.4	5.1	4.6	5.2	4.7	4.3	4.7	4.5
7 years	5.3	4.7	4.2	4.3	4.8	4.4	4.2	4.3	5.0	4.6	4.3	4.7	4.7	4.3	4.3	4.4
8 years	5.1	5.1	4.6	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.2	3.9	4.9	4.9	3.9	4.4	5.0	4.6	4.2	4.2
9 years	5.4	5.0	4.9	4.7	4.3	4.3	4.1	4.0	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.0	5.0	4.9	4.7	4.2
10 years	4.9	5.3	5.0	4.9	3.9	3.8	3.9	3.5	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.7	5.3	5.0	4.8	4.5
11 years	5.1	4.9	5.2	4.9	3.5	3.7	3.8	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.6	4.9	5.2	4.9	4.7
12 years	5.4	5.2	5.2	5.4	3.9	4.1	3.7	3.7	3.2	2.9	2.6	3.3	5.0	5.1	5.3	4.9
13 years	5.9	5.7	5.7	5.5	4.2	4.1	4.0	3.7	3.2	2.9	3.0	2.8	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.5
14 years	6.1	6.2	6.0	6.0	4.6	4.2	4.2	3.7	3.8	3.3	3.0	2.8	6.2	5.9	6.0	5.7
15 years	6.5	6.6	6.4	6.3	4.1	4.1	4.0	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.1	2.7	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.2
16 years	6.8	6.4	6.5	6.3	3.2	3.3	3.6	2.6	3.9	3.7	3.8	2.5	6.3	6.5	6.4	6.3
17 years	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.4	0.7	1.1	1.5	0.8	6.7	3.9	9.9	12.7	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.6
18 years	0.2	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	7.0	9.7	4.2	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0
19 years	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0
20 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2
Asian	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4
Black (non-Hispanic)	30.2	29.1	27.8	27.7	25.4	24.6	25.5	22.1	27.6	27.0	25.8	25.8	28.7	27.6	27.4	25.6
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	33.5	33.8	35.1	35.8	35.3	37.6	36.6	37.9	34.3	35.7	35.4	36.2	34.1	35.0	35.8	36.8
White (non-Hispanic)	32.7	33.0	33.1	32.2	34.4	33.3	33.0	34.9	33.7	32.7	34.4	33.3	33.1	33.3	32.5	33.2
Two or more races	2.4	2.8	2.8	3.0	3.3	3.0	3.4	3.4	2.6	3.0	3.1	3.2	2.7	2.8	3.0	3.2
Unknown	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	7,190	7,887	8,441	8,685
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	5,446	5,927	6,270	6,405

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	4.6	5.0	5.2	4.8
1 year	7.6	8.2	8.6	9.2
2 years	6.1	6.6	6.7	7.2
3 years	5.5	5.9	5.8	6.1
4 years	5.6	5.1	5.5	6.0
5 years	5.6	5.4	5.2	5.7
6 years	5.4	5.3	5.3	4.8
7 years	5.8	5.2	5.0	5.2
8 years	6.4	5.6	5.2	5.2
9 years	6.6	6.6	5.6	5.1
10 years	7.1	6.5	6.5	5.5
11 years	6.1	6.9	6.3	6.3
12 years	6.3	6.1	6.8	6.1
13 years	5.9	6.1	6.1	6.3
14 years	5.9	5.7	5.9	6.1
15 years	5.2	5.4	5.6	5.8
16 years	2.7	2.9	3.1	3.3
17 years	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.5
18 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2
Asian	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	31.0	31.0	30.0	28.6
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	34.0	33.2	35.1	36.5
White (non-Hispanic)	30.8	31.3	30.5	30.0
Two or more races	2.9	3.2	3.3	3.6
Unknown	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.7
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	2,045	2,325	2,299	2,504

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	3.2	3.8	3.0	2.4
1 year	15.2	16.0	16.0	15.2
2 years	12.0	12.9	16.9	16.1
3 years	11.4	9.6	9.9	10.7
4 years	7.0	8.3	8.4	8.2
5 years	7.0	7.9	6.5	7.5
6 years	7.4	7.0	6.9	7.0
7 years	6.8	5.9	5.4	5.2
8 years	6.3	6.3	4.7	4.5
9 years	5.3	5.2	5.1	4.8
10 years	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.3
11 years	4.1	3.9	4.2	4.2
12 years	2.9	3.1	2.2	3.2
13 years	2.6	2.1	1.8	2.2
14 years	2.0	1.6	1.9	2.1
15 years	1.1	0.9	1.1	1.2
16 years	0.7	0.6	1.1	0.9
17 years	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.3
18 years	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.1
Asian	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	25.9	23.8	25.4	24.2
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	37.0	38.5	36.6	39.1
White (non-Hispanic)	31.6	32.0	33.1	31.7
Two or more races	3.3	4.4	3.8	3.9
Unknown	1.5	0.9	0.9	0.6
Missing data	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	95.8	95.8	95.9	95.5
Children with one or more recurrences	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.5
Number	22,290	22,414	24,467	24,031

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.30	0.30	0.19	0.25
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.70	99.70	99.81	99.75
Number	24,147	26,378	28,098	29,996

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	25.5	25.8	24.7	24.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	51.5	51.1	57.2	62.3
Other	6.2	4.3	4.6	5.8
Missing data	16.8	18.8	13.5	7.8
Number	7,989	8,858	9,108	10,242

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	32.0	33.2	31.8	32.7
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	40.2	40.1	44.5	46.8
Other	9.7	7.0	7.7	8.3
Missing data	18.1	19.7	15.9	12.2
Number	2,107	2,326	2,484	2,663

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	2.0	1.1	1.9	2.4
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	34.0	31.2	38.0	49.8
Other	17.6	12.9	14.0	25.0
Missing data	46.5	54.8	46.1	22.8
Number	1,427	1,507	1,656	1,525

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	52.9	50.2	46.9	33.1
Children older than 12 at entry	47.1	49.8	53.1	66.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	365	259	288	296

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/American Indian				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	37.9	14.8	0.0	10.7	9.1	8.8	11.4	18.4	23.5	22.7	24.2	22.5
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	48.3	63.0	77.8	75.0	84.8	76.5	71.4	78.9	49.9	50.1	54.1	63.4
Other	3.4	7.4	0.0	10.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.6	6.4	5.2	5.0	5.4
Missing data	10.3	14.8	22.2	3.6	6.1	14.7	17.1	0.0	20.3	22.0	16.6	8.7
Number	29	27	9	28	33	34	35	38	2,202	2,395	2,349	2,643

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	27.8	28.0	25.7	26.0	24.5	25.1	23.8	22.7
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	100.0	0.0	83.3	80.0	50.4	49.2	57.8	60.7	53.9	53.7	58.2	62.6
Other	0.0	0.0	16.7	20.0	5.5	3.9	3.9	6.3	7.1	4.3	5.3	6.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.3	18.9	12.7	7.0	14.5	16.9	12.7	8.7
Number	2	1	6	5	2,740	3,158	3,224	3,706	2,694	2,900	3,131	3,408

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	35.3	28.8	32.8	21.0	29.9	37.1	29.1	29.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	35.3	50.7	50.0	71.6	55.0	50.2	63.2	64.7	0.0	0.0	20.0	0.0
Other	2.9	1.4	4.7	2.5	2.4	2.6	1.4	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	26.5	19.2	12.5	4.9	12.8	10.1	6.3	4.0	100.0	100.0	80.0	50.0
Number	68	73	64	81	211	267	285	329	10	3	5	4

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	64.4	60.7	62.9	59.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	26.7	31.3	32.3	33.6
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	3.4	3.2	2.2	3.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.1	1.1	0.9	1.7
48 or more mos.	4.3	3.4	1.6	1.9
Missing data	0.1	0.2	<.1	0.0
Number	4,115	4,524	5,206	6,385

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	95.9	92.1	90.9	91.5
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	1.5	2.7	2.3	2.3
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	1.5	2.0	2.5	3.8
Missing data	1.0	3.2	4.2	2.5
Number	9,869	10,680	11,766	11,824

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	7.9	9.1	7.0	5.6
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	36.0	42.2	43.1	40.6
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	23.3	23.2	30.3	31.6
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	13.2	10.1	9.1	12.0
48 or more mos.	19.7	15.3	10.5	10.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	2,038	2,285	2,252	2,459

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	71.2	70.9	70.3	70.1	44.5	42.3	42.1	37.3	14.9	14.5	15.0	15.0	62.2	37.1	62.0	93.2
Children with 3 or more placements	28.8	28.7	25.4	29.8	55.5	57.7	57.3	62.7	85.1	85.5	84.9	85.0	37.8	60.0	8.5	6.8
Number	11,845	12,887	14,088	14,330	5,805	6,759	7,359	8,277	8,485	8,913	8,943	9,782	37	35	71	44

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	3.5	3.5	5.4	4.8
Institutions	9.1	8.6	9.9	7.2
Other settings	84.0	85.2	83.6	86.5
Missing data	3.4	2.7	1.2	1.5
Number	8,008	8,521	9,483	9,903

Texas [STATE COMMENT]

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of Texas performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, 4.5 percent of the children in Texas who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). Although this percent is less than the national median of 7.1 percent, it represents a slight decline in performance from 2000 to 2003 (+7.1 percent change).

The relatively low percent of children in Texas who experienced maltreatment recurrence in 2003 corresponds to a relatively low child maltreatment victim rate in the State. In 2003, the rate of child maltreatment victims in Texas was 8.1 child victims per 1,000 children in the population, which is less than the national median of 10.6 child victims per 1,000 children in the population. This rate did not change from 2000 to 2003.

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

In 2003, 0.25 percent of the children in foster care in Texas were found to be maltreated by foster parents or facility staff members. This percent not only is less than the national median of 0.39 percent, but also represents an improvement in performance from 2000 (-16.7 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003, 86.3 percent of all children exiting foster care in Texas (measure 3.1) were discharged to a permanent home, which is equal to the national median of 86.3 percent. Also in 2003, 79.5 percent of the children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) were discharged to a permanent home, which is about equal to the national median of 79.5 percent. In contrast, only 52.2 percent of the children exiting foster care in 2003 who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home, which is less than the national median of 72.2 percent.

With regard to ensuring that children emancipated from foster care (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) do not spend most of their formative years in foster care, in 2003, 33.1 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care in Texas entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4). Although this percent exceeds the national median of 29.6 percent, it represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (-37.4 percent change).

In Texas, children who are reported as emancipated from foster care appear to be discharged from foster care prior to their 18th birthday. In 2003, for example, no children exiting foster care were age 18 or older at the time of exit. However, 296 children were reported as exiting to emancipation.

There were no real differences with regard to exits to permanency as a function of children's race or ethnicity (measure 3.5). (This was assessed only when a particular race or ethnicity accounted for at least 10 percent of the exits from foster care.) White (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care were as likely to be discharged to a permanent home (85.3 percent) as were Black (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care (85.9 percent) and Hispanic children exiting foster care (86.7 percent). However, the percent of Black

(non-Hispanic) children in the foster care population (25.6 percent) exceeded the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the State's child population (11.9 percent). This differential did not exist for Hispanic children.

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, 59.5 percent of reunifications in Texas occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1). This percent not only is less than the national median of 72.0 percent, but also represents a decline in performance from 2000 to 2003 (-7.6 percent change). However, only 3.6 percent of reunifications occurred after the child had been in foster care for at least 36 months, which is about equal to the national median of 3.5 percent.

The relatively low percentage of reunifications in Texas that occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care corresponds to a relatively low percentage of re-entries into foster care. In 2003, 2.3 percent of the children entering foster care were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode. Although this percent is less than the national median of 9.5 percent, it represents a decline in performance on the measure from 2000 to 2003 (+53.3 percent change). However, only 3.8 percent of the children entering foster care were entering more than 12 months after a prior foster care episode. Consequently, only 6.1 percent of all children entering foster care in 2003 had been in foster care at a prior time.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2003, 46.2 percent of finalized adoptions in Texas occurred within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 5.1). This percent not only exceeds the national median of 23.9 percent, but also represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (+5.2 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, only 70.1 percent of the children in foster care for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings (measure 6.1), which is less than the national median of 84.2 percent. Also in 2003, only 37.3 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months, experienced no more than two placement settings, which is less than the national median of 59.1 percent.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 12.0 percent of the children entering foster care who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1), which exceeds the national median of 8.3 percent. There was no change in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003.

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	721,097	729,754	737,874	742,927
Race/Ethnicity (%)¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.4
Asian	2.1	1.7	1.3	1.4
Black (non-Hispanic)	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.9	0.9	0.9
Hispanic (of any race)	10.9	11.2	11.4	11.8
White (non-Hispanic)	82.4	81.7	82.1	81.7
Two or more races	2.3	2.2	2.0	2.0
% Child population in poverty	11.6	12.5	12.5	12.4

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	8,729	10,200	10,282	12,366
Children in foster care on 9/30	1,805	1,957	2,025	2,033
Children adopted	303	349	346	311

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	25,102	34.8 per 1,000	28,485	39.0 per 1,000	29,836	40.4 per 1,000	31,679	42.6 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	8,729	12.1 per 1,000	10,200	14.0 per 1,000	10,282	13.9 per 1,000	12,366	16.6 per 1,000
Child fatalities	12	1.7 per 100,000	11	1.5 per 100,000	12	1.6 per 100,000	9	1.2 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	7.9	7.2	7.8	7.8
1-5 years	31.7	30.0	32.3	32.7
6-10 years	29.7	28.8	26.9	27.1
11-15 years	24.5	27.3	26.6	26.0
16+ years	6.0	6.7	6.2	6.1
Unknown	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.3
Number	8,729	10,200	10,282	12,366

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.2	1.7	2.4	1.8
Asian	1.0	1.4	2.4	0.7
Black (non-Hispanic)	1.6	2.0	3.4	2.7
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.6
Hispanic (of any race)	13.1	13.9	19.8	21.6
White (non-Hispanic)	38.7	43.9	68.1	69.6
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2
Unknown	44.4	37.1	3.9	0.7
Number	8,729	10,200	10,282	12,366

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	40.8	31.7	40.9	44.0
Medical neglect	1.0	0.8	1.0	0.5
Neglect	29.3	25.9	21.3	20.9
Physical abuse	15.8	14.3	16.1	14.2
Sexual abuse	19.6	22.7	21.7	19.6
Unknown/missing data	0.0	14.6	0.1	0.0
Other	9.5	7.2	14.5	15.8
Number	8,729	10,200	10,282	12,366

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	1,921	1,960	1,966	1,926	2,148	2,006	2,177	1,928	2,264	2,009	2,118	1,821	1,805	1,957	2,025	2,033
Median length of stay (months)	12.0	12.6	11.5	11.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.8	6.8	6.1	6.9	10.4	10.9	10.4	10.3

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	4.4	4.7	3.9	5.0	12.8	11.6	12.8	10.5	8.1	7.5	8.1	7.9	5.1	4.3	5.1	4.0
1 year	3.9	4.8	3.7	3.5	7.9	6.2	6.6	6.6	7.1	7.6	7.1	7.0	4.8	3.6	3.4	3.7
2 years	2.9	4.3	4.5	3.9	6.3	6.1	5.1	6.4	6.1	6.4	6.0	6.7	4.0	4.5	4.0	3.5
3 years	3.4	3.5	3.7	3.5	7.0	4.4	5.7	4.7	6.1	5.1	6.1	5.4	3.2	3.7	3.2	3.4
4 years	3.4	4.1	3.5	3.2	5.4	5.8	5.2	5.0	5.2	5.8	5.7	5.0	3.9	3.5	3.1	3.1
5 years	3.1	3.9	3.1	3.3	6.1	3.9	5.1	3.9	5.8	5.1	5.5	4.6	4.0	3.0	3.2	3.2
6 years	3.9	3.3	3.2	2.9	4.5	4.5	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.8	4.5	4.4	3.3	3.3	3.0	2.5
7 years	3.4	3.9	3.5	2.7	5.4	4.4	3.8	3.6	4.6	4.2	4.1	3.5	4.3	3.6	2.7	3.1
8 years	3.8	4.4	4.0	3.2	5.0	4.3	3.9	3.1	4.5	4.4	4.2	3.5	4.5	3.9	3.2	2.4
9 years	4.7	4.0	3.4	3.8	4.2	4.3	4.3	3.8	4.5	4.6	4.2	3.8	4.0	3.4	3.7	3.1
10 years	3.9	4.2	4.4	3.8	4.1	4.8	4.2	3.5	3.8	4.4	4.2	3.6	4.4	4.3	4.0	3.9
11 years	6.4	4.5	5.0	4.9	3.8	4.6	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.3	3.4	3.6	4.4	5.1	4.8	4.5
12 years	6.0	6.1	5.6	5.8	4.1	5.1	4.5	4.7	3.4	3.4	4.2	3.3	6.6	5.6	5.7	5.1
13 years	7.4	7.1	7.7	6.0	5.2	6.1	5.7	6.2	3.8	3.7	4.1	4.0	7.5	7.9	6.1	7.0
14 years	8.2	8.2	9.3	9.2	5.1	7.4	6.2	7.8	4.8	5.4	5.1	5.0	8.6	9.2	9.1	8.9
15 years	8.6	8.0	10.3	10.5	4.9	6.4	7.1	8.9	5.0	4.9	5.3	6.4	8.1	10.7	10.5	11.3
16 years	9.4	8.9	8.6	12.5	5.3	5.9	7.0	7.5	6.2	5.1	5.6	7.0	8.9	8.4	12.5	12.0
17 years	8.7	7.8	8.7	9.5	2.7	3.8	4.1	5.2	5.1	5.0	4.2	7.0	7.4	8.8	9.6	12.2
18 years	4.1	3.4	2.8	2.2	<.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	6.5	7.0	7.4	7.0	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.7
19 years	0.4	0.8	0.7	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2	0.9	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.3
20 years	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.3	<.1
Missing data	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	2.8	3.1	4.0	4.7	2.4	3.8	3.8	3.9	5.9	4.5	5.2	6.0
Asian	0.5	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.6	0.9	0.8	1.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	3.0	5.5	4.5	5.7	1.9	2.9	4.4	3.7	1.1	4.5	3.4	5.5	4.2	3.8	5.5	3.9
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.2	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.4	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.2	0.9	1.1	0.5	0.4	0.8	0.9	1.3
Hispanic (of any race)	13.8	19.2	18.6	21.1	18.6	20.8	20.4	23.7	16.1	21.9	18.9	23.4	16.6	18.1	20.2	21.4
White (non-Hispanic)	49.3	59.2	56.7	64.2	33.3	42.7	58.7	65.6	29.5	47.3	55.6	63.8	55.1	54.5	60.0	65.8
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	28.0	9.1	13.3	2.1	42.4	29.0	11.0	0.7	50.3	21.0	16.7	2.5	17.2	17.4	7.3	0.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	350	333	450	447
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	225	235	199	176

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	8.6	6.0	6.7	4.9
1 year	4.6	5.7	4.2	5.1
2 years	7.1	7.2	8.0	6.7
3 years	5.4	6.0	6.2	6.5
4 years	4.6	4.5	5.8	4.9
5 years	6.3	6.0	5.8	6.0
6 years	4.6	8.4	6.0	4.9
7 years	5.7	5.1	4.9	5.1
8 years	9.1	6.6	6.9	5.1
9 years	6.0	5.1	7.3	6.7
10 years	8.0	6.9	5.6	6.3
11 years	6.3	6.6	7.1	7.2
12 years	6.9	5.7	6.9	7.2
13 years	6.9	6.0	5.1	6.7
14 years	4.0	5.7	4.9	5.6
15 years	2.6	4.5	5.1	4.5
16 years	2.0	2.7	2.2	4.0
17 years	1.4	0.3	0.9	2.2
18 years	0.0	0.9	0.2	0.2
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	4.6	1.2	0.9	2.7
Asian	0.9	1.2	1.3	2.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	4.3	5.4	5.1	2.9
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.3	0.4	0.2
Hispanic (of any race)	22.3	24.6	25.6	24.4
White (non-Hispanic)	58.3	61.3	58.9	67.6
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	9.7	6.0	7.8	0.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	303	349	346	311

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	7.6	8.6	9.0	10.9
1 year	16.2	17.8	15.9	17.4
2 years	8.9	11.2	11.0	11.9
3 years	9.2	8.0	10.7	9.3
4 years	7.3	7.4	6.9	7.7
5 years	9.2	9.2	7.5	7.4
6 years	5.6	6.6	6.1	8.4
7 years	7.3	4.0	6.9	4.5
8 years	5.6	6.3	6.4	4.2
9 years	5.9	4.9	4.0	4.8
10 years	5.3	5.2	4.3	3.9
11 years	4.0	3.4	3.5	3.5
12 years	1.7	2.3	2.9	0.6
13 years	2.6	1.7	1.7	2.3
14 years	1.7	1.7	0.9	0.6
15 years	0.7	0.6	0.9	1.0
16 years	1.0	0.0	0.6	1.3
17 years	0.3	0.9	0.9	0.3
18 years	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.7	2.9	2.0	3.5
Asian	1.0	1.4	0.3	1.6
Black (non-Hispanic)	3.3	5.7	4.6	7.4
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.3	1.1	0.0	0.6
Hispanic (of any race)	18.5	28.4	25.7	24.4
White (non-Hispanic)	54.5	51.9	54.0	57.9
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	20.8	8.6	13.3	4.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	92.9	92.9	92.3	92.3
Children with one or more recurrences	7.1	7.1	7.7	7.7
Number	4,241	4,965	5,042	5,664

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.54	0.55	<.1	0.41
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.46	99.45	99.92	99.59
Number	3,535	3,440	3,682	3,400

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	13.4	17.4	16.4	17.0
Guardianship	9.5	1.3	1.7	1.5
Reunification	63.7	70.3	70.5	65.0
Other	11.3	10.8	10.9	16.4
Missing data	2.1	0.2	0.4	0.2
Number	2,264	2,009	2,118	1,821

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	23.2	26.0	22.0	23.4
Guardianship	8.3	1.2	1.4	1.8
Reunification	53.2	59.4	60.2	53.1
Other	14.0	12.8	16.1	21.8
Missing data	1.3	0.6	0.3	0.0
Number	457	335	354	556

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.8	0.6	1.4	0.3
Guardianship	6.5	1.5	1.9	1.7
Reunification	57.4	65.5	62.7	53.1
Other	33.7	32.1	34.1	44.6
Missing data	1.6	0.4	0.0	0.2
Number	618	545	592	572

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	10.5	13.5	8.8	14.4
Children older than 12 at entry	89.5	86.5	91.2	85.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	172	163	170	146

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	9.3	13.2	8.6	15.5	25.0	41.7	10.0	83.3	25.0	22.0	22.5	22.8
Guardianship	7.4	1.3	8.6	5.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	3.0
Reunification	66.7	63.2	63.0	63.4	41.7	33.3	50.0	0.0	58.3	61.5	62.0	57.4
Other	16.7	22.4	19.8	15.5	33.3	25.0	40.0	16.7	16.7	15.4	15.5	16.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	54	76	81	71	12	12	10	6	24	91	71	101

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	25.0	21.1	0.0	22.2	15.1	22.5	22.2	17.8	21.0	19.1	16.0	15.4
Guardianship	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.4	0.0	0.2	1.2	3.3	1.6	1.7	1.3
Reunification	25.0	63.2	78.3	77.8	68.2	72.0	69.6	66.5	52.8	64.6	69.7	66.1
Other	0.0	15.8	21.7	0.0	7.9	5.0	8.0	14.1	22.0	14.6	12.0	17.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.9	0.1	0.7	<.1
Number	4	19	23	9	365	440	401	427	667	950	1,178	1,162

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	8.3	7.1	13.3	31.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	14.1	2.4	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	69.0	85.7	77.7	46.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	5.4	4.3	6.2	22.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	3.2	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,138	421	354	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	82.9	81.7	83.3	82.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	11.6	12.4	11.6	12.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	2.4	2.7	2.9	2.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.8	1.4	0.7	0.6
48 or more mos.	0.8	1.3	1.3	1.3
Missing data	0.5	0.4	0.2	1.1
Number	1,442	1,412	1,493	1,183

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	73.9	75.1	76.6	77.0
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	13.0	15.2	14.5	11.2
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	6.7	8.1	8.4	8.6
Missing data	6.4	1.5	0.5	3.3
Number	2,148	2,006	2,177	1,928

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	27.3	25.5	33.9	38.7
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	39.1	45.3	44.0	37.1
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	23.7	20.1	13.5	13.9
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	5.9	5.7	3.7	7.1
48 or more mos.	3.9	3.4	4.9	3.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	304	349	348	310

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	74.0	80.1	74.9	72.5	31.3	42.2	39.4	33.8	15.8	15.7	15.3	15.3	100.0	83.3	100.0	94.4
Children with 3 or more placements	26.0	19.9	25.0	26.7	68.7	57.8	60.5	65.9	84.2	84.3	84.7	84.7	0.0	16.7	0.0	0.0
Number	2,575	2,345	2,575	2,325	684	772	749	716	802	843	811	795	8	6	8	18

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.8
Institutions	1.9	3.7	4.2	9.4
Other settings	97.0	95.1	94.4	86.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9
Number	1,295	1,307	1,417	1,193

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Department of Human Services

The following are Utah's comments on the State's data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2003: Report to Congress*.

Utah utilizes SACWIS system data and Case Reviews regularly to evaluate performance outcomes and services to children and families. For more information on Utah's Child and Family Services, as well as our performance please visit our website at www.hsdcsf.utah.gov.

Section B (Maltreatment Type of Child Victims): In October 1997, Utah passed a law defining child witnessing, or knowledge of, domestic violence as a type of child abuse. This allegation type is mapped to emotional abuse in NCANDS and accounts for the large percentage of emotional abuse allegations in Utah.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of Utah's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, 7.7 percent of the children in Utah who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percent is slightly higher than the national median of 7.1 percent, but also represents a slight decline in performance from 2000 to 2003 (+7.8 percent change).

In 2003, the rate of child maltreatment victims in Utah was 16.6 child victims per 1,000 children in the population, which exceeds the national median of 10.6 child victims per 1,000 children in the population. The 2003 victim rate is substantially greater than the 2000 rate of 12.1 child victims per 1,000 children in the population.

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

In 2003, 0.41 percent of the children in foster care were found to be maltreated by foster parents or facility staff members. Although this percent exceeds the national median of 0.39 percent, it represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (-24.1 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003, 83.5 percent of children exiting foster care in Utah (measure 3.1) were discharged to a permanent home, which is close to the national median of 86.3 percent. Also in 2003, 78.3 percent of the children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) were discharged to a permanent home, which is close to the national median of 79.5 percent. However, only 55.1 percent of the children exiting foster care in 2003 who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home, which is substantially less than the national median of 72.2 percent.

In 2003, 14.4 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4). Although this percent is less than the national median of 29.6 percent, it represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (-37.1 percent change).

There were no real differences in 2003 with regard to exits to permanency as a function of children's race or ethnicity (measure 3.5). (This was assessed only when a particular race or ethnicity accounted for at least 10 percent of the exits from foster care.) White (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care were as likely to be discharged to a permanent home (82.8 percent) as were Hispanic children exiting foster care (85.5 percent). However, the percent of Hispanic children in the foster care population (21.4 percent) exceeded the percent of Hispanic children in the State's child population (11.8 percent).

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, 82.3 percent of reunifications in Utah occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1), which exceeds the national median of 72.0 percent. There was no change in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003. In addition, only 1.9 percent of reunifications occurred after the child had been in foster care for at least 36 months, which is less than the national median of 3.5 percent.

Utah's relatively high percentage of reunifications occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care corresponds to a relatively high percentage of children re-entering foster care. In 2003, 11.2 percent of the children entering foster care were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (measure 4.2). Although this percent exceeds the national median of 9.5 percent, it represents an improvement in performance on the measure from 2000 to 2003 (-13.8 percent change). However, 8.6 percent of the children entering foster care in 2003 were entering more than 12 months after a prior foster care episode. Consequently, 19.8 percent of all children entering foster care in 2003 had been in foster care at a prior time.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2003, 75.8 percent of finalized adoptions in Utah occurred within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 5.1). This percent not only far exceeds the national median of 23.9 percent, but also represents an improvement in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (+14.2 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, only 72.5 percent of the children in foster care for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings (measure 6.1), which is less than the national median of 84.2 percent. Also in 2003, only 33.8 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months, experienced no more than two placement settings, which is less than the national median of 59.1 percent.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 11.2 percent of the children entering foster care who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percent not only exceeds the national median of 8.3 percent, but also represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (+261.3).

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	146,393	141,480	139,634	137,446
Race/Ethnicity (%) ¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3
Asian	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
White (non-Hispanic)	94.7	94.6	95.1	95.1
Two or more races	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.6
% Child population in poverty	16.1	12.2	12.8	10.9

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	1,347	1,139	1,447	1,233
Children in foster care on 9/30	1,389	1,382	1,526	1,409
Children adopted	117	116	153	167

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	3,609	24.6 per 1,000	3,558	25.1 per 1,000	4,000	28.6 per 1,000	3,632	26.4 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	1,347	9.2 per 1,000	1,139	8.1 per 1,000	1,447	10.4 per 1,000	1,233	9.0 per 1,000
Child fatalities	1	0.7 per 100,000						

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	5.0	6.8	6.2	6.8
1-5 years	22.4	25.8	25.3	26.3
6-10 years	29.9	30.0	29.0	27.7
11-15 years	34.7	29.7	32.3	32.4
16+ years	7.9	7.6	7.2	6.7
Unknown	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Number	1,347	1,139	1,447	1,233

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Asian	1.4	0.8	0.2	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	1.6	0.7	0.6	0.9
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	0.4	0.0	0.7	0.4
White (non-Hispanic)	95.8	97.5	95.4	94.6
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3
Unknown	0.6	0.9	3.0	3.3
Number	1,347	1,139	1,447	1,233

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	0.9	1.1	0.5	1.2
Medical neglect	2.2	2.3	2.8	3.2
Neglect	38.2	41.9	6.2	4.8
Physical abuse	22.1	20.5	51.8	52.8
Sexual abuse	40.8	37.8	43.4	42.1
Unknown/missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,347	1,139	1,447	1,233

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	1,301	1,220	1,351	1,442	735	727	832	725	704	580	657	760	1,389	1,382	1,526	1,409
Median length of stay (months)	19.8	19.2	20.0	15.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15.1	13.2	18.5	13.8	18.1	18.4	16.2	17.5

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	2.3	1.4	2.6	2.8	7.8	8.8	8.1	6.5	2.4	2.1	1.8	1.7	2.2	3.0	2.8	1.6
1 year	2.6	2.6	3.0	4.1	2.9	3.3	5.5	5.4	3.0	2.4	3.3	3.4	3.1	2.6	3.9	4.5
2 years	2.6	2.9	3.6	4.0	4.9	3.4	3.6	4.1	3.4	2.8	4.6	3.9	3.0	3.0	3.8	4.3
3 years	2.6	3.4	2.3	2.8	2.9	2.8	3.4	3.6	1.6	3.8	2.1	4.6	3.1	2.6	2.8	3.6
4 years	2.6	2.3	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.6	3.1	3.4	4.0	4.7	3.0	2.6	2.4	3.0	3.1	2.5
5 years	2.3	2.9	2.4	3.0	3.3	2.9	2.6	1.9	2.8	2.6	3.2	3.7	2.7	2.2	2.8	3.1
6 years	2.3	2.0	3.4	2.8	3.4	3.2	3.0	4.8	2.8	2.4	2.7	3.0	2.5	3.0	2.7	3.3
7 years	3.4	2.9	2.5	3.5	2.4	3.2	2.9	2.9	2.0	3.8	2.4	3.0	2.7	2.5	3.4	3.1
8 years	3.4	3.5	2.8	2.6	3.1	2.6	2.3	2.8	3.1	1.7	1.8	3.0	3.4	2.8	2.5	3.4
9 years	3.1	4.0	3.6	3.7	3.5	3.6	3.2	2.9	3.6	3.8	2.3	2.6	4.0	3.8	3.5	2.4
10 years	3.4	3.0	3.8	4.0	2.6	2.3	4.3	4.7	1.6	2.4	3.3	3.2	2.9	3.4	3.9	3.8
11 years	5.1	4.3	3.4	4.2	3.8	2.8	3.2	4.8	2.7	3.1	2.7	4.2	4.0	3.1	4.1	4.5
12 years	5.3	5.7	4.3	3.7	5.3	5.5	5.3	5.4	3.1	3.3	3.7	3.0	5.3	4.6	3.4	5.5
13 years	8.7	7.5	6.6	6.6	10.5	7.4	8.7	8.3	4.8	4.7	5.3	5.1	7.3	6.6	6.5	5.0
14 years	9.3	11.2	8.7	8.0	11.6	11.1	11.8	14.8	7.0	7.6	7.5	8.0	11.0	9.4	8.1	8.4
15 years	14.3	12.0	13.8	13.0	17.0	18.2	14.5	13.7	9.9	12.2	8.5	8.3	12.6	13.7	12.7	12.1
16 years	13.1	15.6	13.3	14.1	8.4	10.3	10.2	7.4	9.9	9.7	10.4	10.5	15.5	13.3	13.6	13.3
17 years	11.8	10.5	14.1	11.9	3.4	5.1	4.2	2.6	14.8	13.3	16.7	14.9	10.2	13.2	11.9	12.5
18 years	1.8	2.0	2.5	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.5	12.2	13.4	10.7	2.0	3.8	4.0	2.8
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.4	1.1	0.4	<.1	0.6	0.5	0.1
20 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.1	<.1
Asian	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.7	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	1.5	1.3	2.1	1.7	3.0	3.6	1.2	1.7	2.6	2.9	2.1	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.6
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	<.1	0.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.8	0.4	0.0	1.3	0.7	0.6	0.0	0.5	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.9	1.1
White (non-Hispanic)	96.8	97.0	96.6	96.5	95.0	95.5	96.3	95.9	95.2	95.9	96.2	96.6	96.6	96.7	96.6	96.2
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.2	<.1
Missing data	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.7	1.5	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.7

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	397	303	427	374
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	232	236	276	289

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	3.8	2.6	5.4	1.6
1 year	7.1	4.3	6.6	9.6
2 years	5.5	5.3	6.6	7.0
3 years	6.3	2.3	5.2	7.5
4 years	4.5	6.6	5.9	4.8
5 years	6.0	3.3	4.7	6.4
6 years	3.8	5.3	3.7	3.7
7 years	4.3	3.0	5.9	5.9
8 years	7.8	4.3	4.0	5.1
9 years	6.3	8.3	5.2	3.5
10 years	4.8	7.3	5.2	4.0
11 years	5.5	5.6	6.6	4.5
12 years	9.1	5.6	4.2	6.7
13 years	6.3	11.6	4.9	3.5
14 years	7.6	7.6	8.2	3.5
15 years	3.5	9.2	6.3	8.6
16 years	3.8	3.0	6.3	5.3
17 years	2.8	4.0	3.5	7.0
18 years	1.3	0.7	1.4	1.9
19 years	0.0	0.3	0.5	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3
Asian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	2.3	2.0	1.6	1.1
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	0.5	0.7	1.6	1.9
White (non-Hispanic)	97.0	96.0	96.3	96.0
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	117	116	153	167

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	0.9	2.6	5.9	0.6
1 year	6.0	6.0	7.8	5.4
2 years	9.4	8.6	15.0	9.6
3 years	6.8	8.6	5.2	10.2
4 years	15.4	8.6	6.5	5.4
5 years	11.1	8.6	7.8	9.6
6 years	7.7	6.9	9.2	6.0
7 years	6.8	8.6	5.2	5.4
8 years	7.7	6.9	3.3	7.8
9 years	5.1	9.5	3.9	8.4
10 years	3.4	1.7	7.8	3.6
11 years	3.4	1.7	5.9	4.8
12 years	2.6	7.8	4.6	4.8
13 years	3.4	6.0	4.6	5.4
14 years	5.1	3.4	3.3	6.6
15 years	4.3	2.6	0.7	3.0
16 years	0.0	0.0	2.0	3.0
17 years	0.9	1.7	1.3	0.6
18 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	3.4	0.0	5.9	0.6
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	2.6	0.0	0.0	1.8
White (non-Hispanic)	92.3	94.8	93.5	94.0
Two or more races	0.9	3.4	0.7	3.6
Unknown	0.0	1.7	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	92.1	93.1	94.5	94.5
Children with one or more recurrences	7.9	6.9	5.5	5.5
Number	658	563	668	563

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.58	0.33	<.1	<.1
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.42	99.67	99.95	99.95
Number	1,903	1,806	2,000	1,985

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	14.6	14.7	20.5	20.4
Guardianship	1.8	0.0	2.1	1.1
Reunification	62.9	71.4	62.9	61.6
Other	15.8	10.9	14.3	17.0
Missing data	4.8	3.1	0.2	0.0
Number	704	580	657	760

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	13.6	17.6	10.0	6.4
Guardianship	4.5	0.0	5.0	2.1
Reunification	40.9	52.9	65.0	53.2
Other	36.4	17.6	20.0	38.3
Missing data	4.5	11.8	0.0	0.0
Number	22	17	20	47

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.3	0.0	0.9	1.4
Guardianship	2.2	0.0	2.9	0.8
Reunification	68.7	82.7	74.7	69.6
Other	21.3	12.7	21.5	28.1
Missing data	7.5	4.6	0.0	0.0
Number	319	284	340	359

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	28.6	30.8	21.3	22.7
Children older than 12 at entry	60.0	61.5	78.7	77.3
Missing data	11.4	7.7	0.0	0.0
Number	105	52	89	119

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/American Indian				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	0.0	21.4	28.6
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	0.0	0.0	100.0	50.0	83.3	100.0	100.0	0.0	61.1	94.1	71.4	57.1
Other	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	0.0	0.0	100.0	11.1	5.9	7.1	14.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1	0	2	2	6	4	1	1	18	17	14	14

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	75.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	14.2	15.3	20.9	20.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8	0.0	2.2	1.1
Reunification	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	0.0	63.4	70.3	62.3	61.7
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	66.7	0.0	15.8	11.2	14.4	17.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.8	3.2	0.2	0.0
Number	0	0	0	1	4	0	3	2	670	556	632	734

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	<.1
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	50.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	0.0
Other	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	4	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	3

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	62.5	62.6	60.8	70.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	16.0	18.1	17.9	18.2
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	5.6	9.2	10.9	6.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	2.5	4.3	3.9	2.4
48 or more mos.	5.2	3.9	6.5	2.4
Missing data	8.1	1.9	0.0	0.4
Number	443	414	413	468

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	79.9	77.9	81.9	81.5
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	10.7	12.8	10.2	9.5
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	9.4	9.4	7.9	9.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	735	727	832	725

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	1.0	0.0	0.7	1.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	15.5	16.5	22.2	18.7
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	31.1	35.3	46.7	33.5
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	24.3	22.4	14.8	29.0
48 or more mos.	20.4	22.4	15.6	16.8
Missing data	7.8	3.5	0.0	0.0
Number	103	85	135	155

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	58.9	68.9	63.9	63.2	34.5	35.8	40.1	40.4	18.6	19.5	19.5	21.1	100.0	0.0	100.0	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	41.1	31.0	36.1	36.8	65.5	64.2	59.9	59.6	81.4	80.4	80.5	78.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	798	785	904	845	440	402	414	539	796	760	863	781	2	0	2	2

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	3.7	5.0	3.9	4.5
Institutions	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.5
Other settings	95.4	94.1	95.4	95.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	347	338	411	378

Vermont [STATE COMMENT]

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of Vermont's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, 5.5 percent of the children in Vermont who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percent not only is less than the national median of 7.1 percent, but also represents an improvement in performance on the measure from 2000 to 2003 (-30.4 percent change).

Vermont's relatively low percentage of children experiencing maltreatment recurrence in 2003 corresponds to a relatively low child maltreatment victim rate in the State. In 2003, the rate of child maltreatment victims in Vermont was 9.0 child victims per 1,000 children in the population, which is less than the national median of 10.6 child victims per 1,000 children in the population. Vermont's child victim rate did not change from 2000 to 2003.

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

In 2003, 0.05 percent of the children in foster care in Vermont were found to be maltreated by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). This percent not only is less than the national median of 0.39 percent, but also represents an improvement in performance from 2000 to 2003 (-91.4 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003, 83.1 percent of children exiting foster care (measure 3.1) were discharged to a permanent home, which is less than the national median of 86.3 percent. Also in 2003, 61.7 percent of the children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) were discharged to a permanent home, which is less than the national median of 79.5 percent. In contrast, 71.8 percent of the children exiting foster care in 2003 who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home, which is about equal to the national median of 72.2 percent.

With regard to ensuring that children emancipated from foster care (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) do not spend most of their formative years in foster care, in 2003, 22.7 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4). This percent not only is less than the national median of 29.6 percent, but also represents an improvement in performance on the measure from 2000 to 2003 (-20.6 percent change).

It is not meaningful to assess exits to permanency in Vermont as a function of children's race or ethnicity (measure 3.5) because 95 percent of the children exiting foster care in 2003 were White (non-Hispanic).

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, 70.3 percent of reunifications in Vermont occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1). Although this percent is less than the national median of 72.0 percent, it represents an improvement in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (+12.5 percent change). However,

4.8 percent of reunifications occurred after the child had been in foster care for at least 36 months, which exceeds the national median of 3.5 percent.

With regard to re-entries into foster care, 9.5 percent of the children entering foster care in 2003 were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (measure 4.2). This percent is equal to the national median of 9.5 percent and represents an improvement in performance on the measure from 2000 to 2003 (-11.2 percent change). However, 9.0 percent of the children entering foster care were entering more than 12 months after a prior foster care episode. Consequently, 18.5 percent of all children entering foster care in 2003 had been in foster care at a prior time.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2003, 20.6 percent of finalized adoptions in Vermont occurred within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 5.1). Although this percent is less than the national median of 23.9 percent, it represents an improvement in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (+24.8 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, 63.3 percent of the children in foster care for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings (measure 6.1). Although this percent is less than the national median of 84.2 percent, it represents an improvement in performance on the measure from 2000 to 2003 (+7.3 percent change). Also in 2003, 40.4 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months, experienced no more than two placement settings, which is less than the national median of 59.1 percent. However, performance on this measure also improved from 2000 to 2003 (+17.1 percent change).

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 5.0 percent of the children entering foster care in Vermont who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). Although this percent is less than the national median of 8.3 percent, it represents a decline in performance on the measure from 2000 to 2003 (+8.7 percent change).

Virginia [CONTEXT DATA]

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	1,741,875	1,758,978	1,781,042	1,798,767
Race/Ethnicity (%)¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2
Asian	3.5	3.7	3.7	3.8
Black (non-Hispanic)	23.1	23.2	22.7	22.5
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	5.9	6.2	6.2	6.5
White (non-Hispanic)	64.0	64.1	64.6	64.2
Two or more races	2.9	2.6	2.6	2.7
% Child population in poverty	8.3	8.4	13.8	13.5

Child Welfare Summary

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	7,416	9,873	7,571	6,485
Children in foster care on 9/30	6,789	6,866	7,109	7,046
Children adopted	448	495	424	487

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information

	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	40,799	23.4 per 1,000	37,988	21.6 per 1,000	40,552	22.8 per 1,000	31,915	17.7 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	7,416	4.3 per 1,000	9,873	5.6 per 1,000	7,571	4.2 per 1,000	6,485	3.6 per 1,000
Child fatalities	29	1.7 per 100,000	36	2.1 per 100,000	29	1.7 per 100,000	31	1.7 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	9.4	10.4	12.2	9.1
1-5 years	30.6	29.6	29.9	30.7
6-10 years	31.1	30.3	28.5	27.6
11-15 years	23.2	23.7	23.4	24.7
16+ years	5.6	5.8	5.8	6.9
Unknown	0.2	0.3	0.2	1.1
Number	7,416	9,873	7,571	6,485

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)⁴

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
Asian	1.4	1.0	0.9	0.6
Black (non-Hispanic)	36.7	37.3	36.9	36.8
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	6.4	6.3	6.1	6.5
White (non-Hispanic)	49.7	48.6	47.8	48.3
Two or more races	3.0	3.4	4.4	4.1
Unknown	2.8	3.3	3.9	3.5
Number	7,416	9,873	7,571	6,485

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁵

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	1.8	1.6	1.8	1.7
Medical neglect	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.9
Neglect	58.6	58.8	59.1	59.9
Physical abuse	28.5	28.0	27.1	24.5
Sexual abuse	11.0	12.2	13.2	16.7
Unknown/missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	7,416	9,873	7,571	6,485

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	5,870	6,055	6,139	6,152	2,738	2,904	3,274	3,351	1,826	2,096	2,307	2,459	6,789	6,866	7,109	7,046
Median length of stay (months)	22.9	22.2	20.8	20.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	17.5	16.2	15.5	14.2	21.8	20.5	19.3	18.8

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.8	11.3	10.7	11.3	11.3	4.1	3.0	4.2	4.3	2.6	2.7	2.9	3.0
1 year	3.5	3.6	3.8	3.8	5.4	5.8	5.0	5.8	4.2	4.2	4.6	4.3	3.7	3.9	3.7	4.1
2 years	3.9	4.0	3.4	3.7	4.9	4.5	4.5	5.1	4.8	5.4	4.9	5.4	4.0	3.6	3.8	4.0
3 years	3.2	3.4	3.7	3.2	3.8	4.6	3.4	3.7	4.7	5.7	4.9	4.2	3.6	4.0	3.2	3.7
4 years	3.7	3.2	3.2	3.1	4.2	4.2	3.4	3.9	3.7	3.9	4.6	4.8	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.1
5 years	3.5	3.5	3.1	2.8	3.8	4.1	3.1	3.9	3.8	4.0	3.9	3.7	3.6	3.3	3.0	3.0
6 years	4.3	3.7	3.3	3.1	3.9	3.9	4.0	3.3	3.4	4.2	3.7	3.1	3.8	3.5	2.9	3.1
7 years	4.3	4.2	3.7	3.4	4.6	3.8	3.7	3.3	4.1	3.8	4.0	2.8	4.2	3.8	3.4	3.3
8 years	4.5	4.5	4.1	3.9	4.0	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.9	4.3	4.4	4.6	4.1	3.7	3.3
9 years	5.3	4.6	4.4	4.0	4.2	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.6	3.9	3.6	3.5	4.4	4.3	3.9	3.6
10 years	4.8	5.3	4.7	4.6	4.8	4.3	4.3	3.7	4.2	3.3	3.1	3.3	5.3	4.7	4.6	4.3
11 years	4.6	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.0	4.6	5.1	4.2	2.5	3.1	3.4	3.2	5.3	5.6	5.2	4.8
12 years	5.9	5.4	6.2	6.1	5.8	5.7	5.2	5.5	3.1	3.0	3.9	3.7	5.4	5.9	5.8	5.6
13 years	6.9	7.2	6.8	7.8	7.1	6.8	7.7	7.4	3.7	3.4	4.7	3.8	6.8	6.5	7.2	7.4
14 years	8.6	8.5	9.0	8.2	8.0	8.1	8.2	8.1	3.7	4.1	4.4	5.2	7.9	8.4	8.0	8.9
15 years	9.7	9.9	10.1	11.0	8.1	8.2	8.9	9.5	4.6	5.3	5.4	5.4	9.9	9.7	10.2	9.9
16 years	10.3	10.3	11.2	12.1	6.4	8.7	9.3	8.2	4.7	5.6	5.4	5.5	9.8	10.8	11.2	11.8
17 years	9.6	9.9	10.3	10.8	4.6	4.3	5.3	5.3	14.5	3.8	15.5	28.5	10.2	10.1	11.3	11.7
18 years	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	17.1	24.6	9.6	1.0	1.6	1.7	2.8	1.3
19 years	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8	1.9	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	<.1	0.1	0.1	<.1
Asian	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.2	1.0	0.4	0.7	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	53.9	51.8	50.3	48.5	39.9	40.9	40.4	38.7	45.6	44.2	43.7	43.7	50.5	49.5	47.9	45.5
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	3.6	3.8	3.8	4.2	4.4	4.8	5.8	6.4	3.4	5.0	6.3	5.0	3.9	3.9	3.9	4.9
White (non-Hispanic)	40.3	41.5	42.2	42.9	50.3	48.2	47.4	48.7	46.9	46.6	44.9	46.5	42.5	42.8	43.7	44.4
Two or more races	1.0	1.9	2.8	3.7	4.1	4.5	4.9	5.0	2.2	3.1	3.4	3.9	1.9	2.7	3.5	4.2
Unknown	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.7	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	2,132	1,946	1,489	1,572
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	625	477	54	99

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	4.9	4.1	2.6	2.1
1 year	6.8	6.6	5.6	5.3
2 years	7.7	6.8	6.2	7.2
3 years	6.8	7.5	5.8	7.3
4 years	6.7	7.0	6.3	5.0
5 years	8.0	6.6	6.1	5.5
6 years	7.7	7.0	6.0	5.9
7 years	8.8	7.3	6.4	6.2
8 years	7.6	8.3	7.1	6.6
9 years	8.3	7.1	7.9	7.4
10 years	7.7	7.9	7.3	8.5
11 years	5.6	7.7	8.3	7.1
12 years	5.0	5.6	7.5	7.5
13 years	3.9	4.1	5.9	6.4
14 years	2.3	3.6	4.2	5.1
15 years	1.5	2.0	3.8	3.7
16 years	0.6	0.7	2.1	2.5
17 years	0.2	0.3	0.8	0.9
18 years	<.1	0.0	0.1	<.1
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	<.1	0.1	<.1	0.3
Asian	0.3	0.3	<.1	<.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	53.0	54.2	53.9	51.7
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	4.2	4.4	4.3	4.8
White (non-Hispanic)	39.4	37.4	37.3	37.8
Two or more races	2.2	3.1	3.8	5.1
Unknown	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	448	495	424	487

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.6
1 year	4.7	4.4	5.4	6.0
2 years	7.1	10.1	7.8	8.6
3 years	8.5	9.5	8.0	9.9
4 years	6.7	8.1	10.6	8.6
5 years	9.2	7.7	9.4	8.0
6 years	10.5	8.7	6.8	8.8
7 years	10.7	9.3	6.4	5.7
8 years	6.9	5.9	7.3	6.6
9 years	5.6	6.9	8.3	6.0
10 years	8.3	9.3	6.1	8.6
11 years	4.2	4.6	8.0	4.1
12 years	4.9	3.6	5.7	6.0
13 years	4.2	3.2	3.5	4.1
14 years	2.9	2.6	2.1	3.1
15 years	2.5	3.0	2.4	3.5
16 years	0.9	1.8	0.7	0.4
17 years	1.6	0.6	0.9	1.0
18 years	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.4
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.4	0.6	0.0	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	45.8	41.0	51.2	42.5
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	4.7	4.8	4.0	4.3
White (non-Hispanic)	44.4	45.5	38.7	44.8
Two or more races	4.0	7.9	6.1	8.0
Unknown	0.7	0.2	0.0	0.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Virginia [OUTCOMES DATA]

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	—	98.2	97.8	97.9
Children with one or more recurrences	—	1.8	2.2	2.1
Number	—	4,242	3,507	2,659

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	0.29	0.22
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	99.71	99.78
Number	—	—	8,883	8,900

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	19.6	20.0	19.6	19.5
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	47.3	48.8	53.8	52.5
Other	33.1	31.2	26.6	28.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,826	2,096	2,307	2,459

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	19.0	20.5	21.4	24.8
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	38.9	32.5	39.3	31.8
Other	42.2	47.0	39.3	43.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	453	453	486	553

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.3	0.8	0.6	0.5
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	35.3	36.7	43.6	43.2
Other	64.4	62.5	55.7	56.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	660	774	795	945

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	29.9	24.3	26.9	22.0
Children older than 12 at entry	69.9	75.7	73.1	78.0
Missing data	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	542	556	510	587

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/American Indian				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	33.3	16.7	15.8	25.0	25.0	0.0	18.6	19.1	21.6	19.8
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	0.0	33.3	66.7	66.7	26.3	25.0	37.5	100.0	43.1	46.9	50.1	48.3
Other	100.0	66.7	0.0	16.7	57.9	50.0	37.5	0.0	38.3	34.0	28.2	31.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1	3	3	6	19	8	16	4	833	926	1,009	1,075

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	24.2	21.9	15.2	20.3	20.6	21.3	18.5	18.5
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	48.4	53.3	61.4	61.8	50.1	48.4	54.6	55.0
Other	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	27.4	24.8	23.4	17.9	29.3	30.3	26.8	26.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1	2	0	1	62	105	145	123	856	976	1,036	1,143

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	38.5	0.0	10.0	8.3	7.3	13.8	17.9	29.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	53.8	100.0	90.0	58.3	80.5	70.8	69.2	52.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	7.7	0.0	0.0	33.3	12.2	15.4	12.8	17.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	13	11	20	12	41	65	78	95	0	0	0	0

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	72.2	73.6	67.4	72.0
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	18.1	15.8	21.8	19.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	5.3	6.2	6.5	5.7
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.9	2.4	1.7	1.4
48 or more mos.	1.9	1.7	1.5	1.5
Missing data	0.7	0.4	1.0	0.2
Number	864	1,022	1,241	1,290

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	92.1	93.0	91.0	90.3
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	3.9	3.5	5.1	5.3
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	1.5	1.7	2.2	2.9
Missing data	2.6	1.8	1.7	1.5
Number	2,738	2,904	3,274	3,351

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	3.1	1.0	2.0	3.1
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	17.4	16.9	17.2	15.0
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	26.1	29.3	24.5	28.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	18.8	18.6	21.6	21.7
48 or more mos.	34.2	34.3	34.7	31.9
Missing data	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	357	420	453	479

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	85.8	84.8	85.7	85.6	70.4	67.0	63.7	62.3	69.8	59.5	52.3	47.2	60.0	50.0	84.0	83.3
Children with 3 or more placements	13.0	14.4	14.1	14.2	29.2	32.4	36.0	37.6	29.8	40.2	47.5	52.7	0.0	0.0	4.0	0.0
Number	2,947	3,205	3,549	3,718	1,717	1,800	1,909	1,971	3,940	3,950	3,930	3,808	5	4	25	6

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	0.6	0.6	1.0	0.7
Institutions	5.4	5.8	7.6	6.7
Other settings	93.1	93.4	91.2	92.2
Missing data	0.8	0.2	0.2	0.4
Number	1,712	1,768	1,883	1,983

Vickie Johnson-Scott, Director
Division of Family Services
Department of Social Services

The following are Virginia's comments on the State's data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2003: Report to Congress*.

Section C (Children in Foster Care): There is an inconsistency between the number of children in foster care as of 9/30/02 and 10/01/02. Virginia has identified the problems with our Online Automated Services Information System (OASIS) that resulted in children being dropped between data submissions and is in the process of modifying the system to ensure this does not continue to be a problem. Starting with our October, 2005 - March, 2006 submission there will be no "missing children."

Section D (Children Waiting to be Adopted): The percentage of children waiting to be adopted who had not had termination of parental rights, as reported to AFCARS, was only 6 percent. We have determined that Virginia has historically misinterpreted the AFCARS requirement for Elements 47 and 48. These fields were included in the AFCARS submission only if Element 58 indicates "adoption." We intend to have the coding resulting from this misinterpretation corrected in time for our April, 2005 - September, 2005 AFCARS submission.

Outcome measures 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3: The percentage of children exiting foster care to "someplace other than a permanent family" is higher than the national median. Six hundred and ninety (690) cases or 28 percent of all cases in care in 2003 exited foster care to something other than reunification, guardianship or adoption. This number reflects children who are emancipated, on run-away status, whose custody was transferred to juvenile justice, or who died. For some of these discharge reasons, the numbers are high because of incorrect data entry at the local department level. For example, 49 cases are "reunification" and should have been entered under that discharge reason. Similarly, 5 are adoption and should have been entered under that category. Ten children show "no goal." Ninety cases exited to Permanent Foster Care which is considered a permanent family by Virginia but does not have a counterpart in the federal permanency language.

Virginia appreciates the technical assistance that has been and continues to be offered to address information system issues. We are committed to improving the accuracy of the data in OASIS and in our AFCARS submissions.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of Virginia's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, 2.1 percent of the children in Virginia who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). Although this percent is less than the national median of 7.1 percent, it represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2001 to 2003 (+16.7 percent change). (Data for this measure for 2000 are not available.)

Virginia's low percentage of children experiencing maltreatment recurrence in 2003 corresponds to a low child maltreatment victim rate in the State. In 2003, the child maltreatment victim rate in Virginia was 3.6 child victims per 1,000 children in the State population, which is less than the national median of 10.6 child victims per 1,000 children in the population. The rate did not change from 2000 to 2003.

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

In 2003, 0.22 percent of the children in foster care were found to be maltreated by foster parents or facility staff members, which is less than the national median of 0.39 percent (measure 2.1). Change in performance on this measure over time cannot be assessed because data were not available for this measure until 2002.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003, 72.0 percent of children exiting foster care in Virginia (measure 3.1) were discharged to a permanent home, which is less than the national median of 86.3 percent. Also in 2003, 56.6 percent of the children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) were discharged to a permanent home, which is less than the national median of 79.5 percent. Similarly, only 43.7 percent of the children exiting foster care in 2003 who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home, which is less than the national median of 72.2 percent.

In 2003, 22.0 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4). This percent not only is less than the national median of 29.6 percent, but also represents an improvement in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (-26.4 percent change).

In Virginia, most children who are reported as emancipated from foster care were discharged from foster care prior to their 18th birthday. In 2003, for example, only 25 children exiting foster care were age 18 or older at the time of exit. However, 587 children were reported as exiting to emancipation.

There were differences in Virginia with regard to exits to permanency as a function of children's race or ethnicity (measure 3.5). (This was assessed only when a particular race or ethnicity accounted for at least 10 percent of the exits from foster care.) White (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care were more likely to be discharged to a permanent home (73.5 percent) than were Black (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care (68.1 percent). In addition, the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the foster care population (45.5 percent) was more than twice the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the State's child population (22.5 percent).

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, 72.0 percent of reunifications in Virginia occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1), which is equal to the national median. Performance on this measure did not change from 2000 to 2003. In addition, only 2.9 percent of reunifications occurred after the child had been in foster care for at least 36 months, which is less than the national median of 3.5 percent.

With regard to re-entries into foster care, in 2003, 5.2 percent of the children entering foster care were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (measure 4.2). Although this percent is less than the national median of 9.5 percent, it represents a decline in performance on the measure from 2000 to 2003 (+35.9 percent change). However, only 2.9 percent of the children entering foster care were entering more than 12 months after a prior foster care episode. Consequently, only 8.2 percent of all children entering foster care in 2003 had been in foster care at a prior time.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2003, 18.1 percent of finalized adoptions in Virginia occurred within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 5.1). This percent not only is less than the national median of 23.9 percent, but also represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (-11.7 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, 85.6 percent of the children in foster care for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings, which exceeds the national median of 84.2 percent (measure 6.1). Also in 2003, 62.3 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months, experienced no more than two placement settings, which exceeds the national median of 59.1 percent.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 7.4 percent of the children entering foster care who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). Although this is less than the national median of 8.3 percent, it represents a decline in performance on the measure from 2000 to 2003 (+23.3 percent change).

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	1,513,185	1,509,420	1,505,174	1,496,581
Race/Ethnicity (%)¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.7
Asian	5.5	5.5	5.1	5.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	3.7	4.1	3.7	3.7
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.5
Hispanic (of any race)	11.7	12.0	11.9	12.3
White (non-Hispanic)	71.5	71.2	72.2	71.8
Two or more races	5.5	4.8	4.8	4.9
% Child population in poverty	13.8	13.7	14.1	19.1

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	7,095	6,010	4,673	6,020
Children in foster care on 9/30	8,945	9,101	9,669	9,213
Children adopted	1,141	1,204	1,077	1,315

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	38,070	25.2 per 1,000	35,491	23.5 per 1,000	28,718	19.1 per 1,000	47,713	31.9 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	7,095	4.7 per 1,000	6,010	4.0 per 1,000	4,673	3.1 per 1,000	6,020	4.0 per 1,000
Child fatalities	14	1.0 per 100,000	16	1.1 per 100,000	9	0.6 per 100,000	9	0.6 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	11.6	12.0	14.1	13.6
1-5 years	32.5	34.3	34.4	34.5
6-10 years	31.6	29.0	27.5	25.7
11-15 years	19.8	20.0	19.8	21.1
16+ years	3.0	3.0	2.8	3.4
Unknown	1.6	1.7	1.5	1.6
Number	7,095	6,010	4,673	6,020

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	6.6	6.7	7.4	7.0
Asian	2.5	2.4	1.8	1.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	8.8	8.3	9.5	9.3
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.5
Hispanic (of any race)	12.9	13.3	11.7	14.3
White (non-Hispanic)	66.5	66.2	66.1	63.8
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	2.7	3.1	3.6	3.8
Number	7,095	6,010	4,673	6,020

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	6.4	7.0	5.3	1.1
Medical neglect	3.7	3.7	3.5	0.7
Neglect	71.0	72.0	73.1	78.2
Physical abuse	21.7	21.4	21.3	19.8
Sexual abuse	7.0	6.7	6.9	7.6
Unknown/missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1
Number	7,095	6,010	4,673	6,020

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	8,484	8,266	9,339	9,320	7,590	7,273	6,704	6,196	7,129	6,438	6,374	6,303	8,945	9,101	9,669	9,213
Median length of stay (months)	16.8	16.2	15.6	15.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.6	4.1	7.8	11.2	15.9	15.4	16.3	16.3

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	6.2	6.8	6.9	7.3	14.5	15.3	17.2	18.2	5.6	5.2	4.9	4.8	6.7	7.1	7.1	7.6
1 year	7.3	7.4	8.0	8.7	5.6	5.5	6.3	6.0	5.6	5.7	5.8	6.9	7.4	7.8	8.5	8.6
2 years	6.6	6.9	7.0	7.6	5.4	6.0	5.3	5.8	5.8	6.4	6.5	7.2	6.8	6.9	7.4	7.8
3 years	6.6	6.2	6.8	6.6	5.5	5.1	5.5	5.4	6.0	5.4	6.0	6.7	6.2	6.5	6.6	6.5
4 years	6.0	6.4	5.8	6.3	4.1	4.4	4.9	4.4	4.7	5.5	6.0	5.0	6.3	5.7	6.4	6.4
5 years	5.6	5.3	5.9	5.0	3.8	4.2	4.5	3.8	4.4	4.5	5.1	4.7	5.2	5.7	5.0	5.6
6 years	5.4	4.9	5.1	5.6	4.6	3.8	3.9	4.0	5.2	4.3	4.7	4.8	5.0	4.9	5.6	4.6
7 years	5.2	5.0	4.6	4.3	3.9	3.8	3.6	3.6	4.3	3.8	4.1	4.4	5.0	4.5	4.3	4.8
8 years	6.0	4.8	4.6	4.6	4.1	3.9	3.8	3.2	4.4	4.1	4.0	3.5	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.1
9 years	5.2	5.5	4.8	4.5	4.1	3.6	4.0	3.5	4.7	4.3	4.0	3.9	5.4	4.6	4.4	4.2
10 years	5.1	4.7	5.3	4.7	3.8	4.2	3.5	3.6	4.2	4.0	4.2	4.1	4.6	5.2	4.7	4.3
11 years	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.8	3.8	3.9	3.8	4.7	4.0	3.8	3.6	4.5	4.8	4.7	4.9	4.4
12 years	4.5	4.8	4.9	4.7	4.3	4.6	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.9	4.7	5.0	4.9	4.7	4.7
13 years	4.8	4.4	5.1	4.8	5.7	5.9	5.8	5.6	5.2	5.5	5.6	5.4	4.4	5.1	4.7	4.8
14 years	5.0	5.5	4.6	5.2	8.1	7.0	6.6	6.7	7.4	7.0	6.7	6.1	5.7	4.7	5.1	5.1
15 years	5.2	5.6	5.4	4.8	7.9	7.9	7.0	7.1	7.5	8.2	7.2	6.5	5.6	5.5	4.7	5.5
16 years	4.9	5.2	5.6	5.3	6.9	6.4	6.4	6.2	7.1	7.3	7.0	6.2	5.3	5.6	5.3	5.0
17 years	4.6	4.7	4.4	5.0	3.6	4.1	3.6	3.8	5.0	5.3	5.8	7.9	4.7	4.6	5.0	5.1
18 years	0.6	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	<.1	3.8	4.6	3.8	2.7	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.8
19 years	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.0	<.1
20 years	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.2	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	<.1	<.1

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	8.8	8.4	8.8	8.5	7.3	8.2	6.4	7.2	7.4	7.4	6.2	6.7	8.7	9.0	8.8	8.9
Asian	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.8	1.4	1.6	1.2	1.2	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.3	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.7
Black (non-Hispanic)	14.0	13.1	11.7	11.2	8.7	8.6	8.7	9.6	10.2	10.0	9.4	9.4	12.6	11.7	11.1	11.3
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3
Hispanic (of any race)	11.8	11.5	12.1	11.9	12.0	12.2	13.0	13.4	12.2	12.1	13.6	12.3	11.6	11.6	11.8	12.7
White (non-Hispanic)	57.7	58.4	58.6	59.8	62.0	60.4	61.8	59.3	61.4	60.2	60.4	61.5	58.4	58.7	59.7	58.3
Two or more races	6.0	6.9	6.8	6.7	5.7	4.4	5.9	6.3	4.9	4.9	6.1	6.1	6.6	6.3	6.7	6.8
Unknown	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	2.5	4.3	1.6	1.5	2.1	3.4	1.3	1.4	1.0	1.6	0.7	0.7
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.2	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.4

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	2,512	2,258	2,648	2,384
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	1,921	1,782	2,017	1,846

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	3.4	3.1	2.9	2.8
1 year	8.1	8.4	9.0	9.9
2 years	8.8	8.9	10.5	9.1
3 years	7.7	7.4	7.9	8.1
4 years	8.9	7.4	8.2	7.8
5 years	7.2	7.4	6.3	7.4
6 years	6.9	6.3	6.8	5.5
7 years	6.8	6.2	4.9	5.7
8 years	6.5	6.1	5.7	4.7
9 years	6.7	5.8	5.4	5.0
10 years	5.1	6.2	5.1	4.9
11 years	5.5	5.0	5.6	4.7
12 years	5.1	5.6	4.5	4.7
13 years	3.7	5.0	4.5	4.3
14 years	3.1	3.4	4.3	4.6
15 years	2.9	2.9	3.1	4.2
16 years	1.9	2.8	2.6	3.3
17 years	1.6	1.9	2.5	2.6
18 years	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.7
19 years	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	5.1	4.7	6.8	6.3
Asian	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6
Black (non-Hispanic)	18.8	17.5	15.1	13.5
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	11.2	11.8	12.0	12.8
White (non-Hispanic)	56.6	56.9	55.7	58.7
Two or more races	6.8	7.2	8.6	7.4
Unknown	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.1

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	1,141	1,204	1,077	1,315

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	1.3	1.4	1.9	1.9
1 year	10.7	11.8	12.3	13.3
2 years	13.8	15.3	16.7	15.8
3 years	12.0	10.0	11.4	13.5
4 years	9.8	11.5	11.0	9.2
5 years	9.6	8.6	9.1	8.1
6 years	7.7	7.5	7.7	7.4
7 years	7.0	6.4	6.0	5.8
8 years	5.7	6.1	4.3	4.7
9 years	6.8	6.5	5.1	4.7
10 years	5.0	4.5	4.0	3.9
11 years	3.6	2.6	2.8	4.0
12 years	2.5	3.5	2.8	2.7
13 years	1.8	1.2	2.1	1.8
14 years	1.0	1.6	0.9	0.9
15 years	0.4	1.0	0.6	1.0
16 years	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5
17 years	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.7
18 years	0.2	0.0	0.3	<.1
19 years	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	3.9	4.8	5.5	5.1
Asian	0.7	1.0	1.1	0.9
Black (non-Hispanic)	13.2	12.4	11.3	9.3
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	<.1	0.2	0.4	0.5
Hispanic (of any race)	12.2	11.3	14.2	11.1
White (non-Hispanic)	63.6	63.0	61.1	65.2
Two or more races	5.9	6.5	5.8	6.5
Unknown	0.4	0.9	0.6	1.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Washington [OUTCOMES DATA]

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	88.1	88.3	89.2	89.2
Children with one or more recurrences	11.9	11.7	10.8	10.8
Number	3,075	3,083	2,422	2,407

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.97	0.79	—	0.20
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.03	99.21	—	99.80
Number	14,375	13,948	—	14,120

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	15.2	17.6	15.4	19.4
Guardianship	7.9	6.6	7.8	8.4
Reunification	66.3	66.0	66.5	61.4
Other	10.4	9.8	7.6	7.7
Missing data	0.1	0.1	2.7	3.1
Number	7,129	6,438	6,374	6,303

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	—	22.2	16.7	11.5
Guardianship	—	26.7	14.8	19.2
Reunification	—	22.2	51.9	48.7
Other	—	28.9	16.7	14.1
Missing data	—	0.0	0.0	6.4
Number	—	45	54	78

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.4
Guardianship	2.2	3.4	4.1	4.2
Reunification	81.6	80.1	80.7	78.2
Other	15.7	16.1	13.9	15.3
Missing data	0.2	0.2	1.1	1.8
Number	2,246	2,179	1,930	1,806

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	30.3	22.0	26.3	25.7
Children older than 12 at entry	69.4	77.7	73.7	74.3
Missing data	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0
Number	333	327	327	338

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.				2000	Asian				2000	Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003		2000	2001	2002	2003		2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	7.6	11.6	13.2	14.7	7.5	8.7	8.7	14.6	19.6	22.4	19.9	18.5		
Guardianship	11.2	6.5	9.6	13.0	2.8	6.7	1.9	6.1	12.8	9.8	11.2	9.8		
Reunification	43.9	47.3	51.9	51.1	78.5	78.8	76.7	63.4	58.5	60.6	59.9	57.7		
Other	37.3	34.5	21.3	19.1	9.3	5.8	10.7	8.5	9.1	7.3	6.8	10.6		
Missing data	0.0	0.2	4.1	2.1	1.9	0.0	1.9	7.3	0.0	0.0	2.2	3.4		
Number	526	476	395	423	107	104	103	82	728	644	599	593		

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.				2000	Hispanic (of any race)				2000	White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003		2000	2001	2002	2003		2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	4.5	9.1	13.8	24.0	15.9	16.5	16.5	18.1	15.7	18.4	15.3	20.5		
Guardianship	9.1	0.0	10.3	8.0	5.5	7.4	8.1	9.8	7.3	6.1	7.2	7.6		
Reunification	81.8	90.9	75.9	64.0	71.2	68.6	65.0	62.9	68.9	67.4	68.6	62.0		
Other	4.5	0.0	0.0	4.0	7.4	7.4	6.9	6.8	8.0	7.9	6.5	6.6		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.5	2.3	0.2	0.2	2.3	3.4		
Number	22	22	29	25	868	781	866	774	4,374	3,875	3,849	3,879		

	Unable to Determine				2000	Two or more races				2000	Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003		2000	2001	2002	2003		2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	2.6	4.5	3.5	13.2	18.2	21.6	15.2	21.2	0.0	0.0	1.6	0.0		
Guardianship	2.6	2.3	5.9	8.8	10.5	7.6	9.0	8.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	85.0	88.2	81.2	73.6	58.7	59.0	62.8	62.4	0.0	0.0	96.7	0.0		
Other	9.8	5.0	5.9	3.3	12.5	11.7	8.8	5.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	3.5	1.1	0.0	0.0	4.1	2.8	0.0	0.0	1.6	0.0		
Number	153	221	85	91	351	315	387	386	0	0	61	50		

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	83.5	83.0	76.3	75.1
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	8.4	8.4	14.6	14.7
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	2.4	3.0	5.8	6.7
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.0	1.0	1.8	2.2
48 or more mos.	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.4
Missing data	3.5	3.6	0.0	0.0
Number	4,727	4,247	4,241	3,870

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	69.6	71.2	76.3	76.2
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	12.4	16.2	12.9	11.2
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	9.3	11.9	10.4	12.2
Missing data	8.7	0.7	0.4	0.4
Number	7,590	7,273	6,704	6,196

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.2
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	17.8	24.0	22.3	22.5
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	32.8	31.6	34.9	35.5
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	22.7	20.0	20.1	22.8
48 or more mos.	24.7	22.4	20.4	17.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,084	1,131	980	1,221

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	82.8	83.3	84.2	85.3	55.0	54.7	58.2	59.1	35.2	34.1	32.6	31.6	94.8	94.3	100.0	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	16.8	16.3	15.8	14.7	44.9	45.1	41.8	40.9	64.6	65.7	67.4	68.4	3.7	4.0	0.0	0.0
Number	7,917	7,565	7,344	6,783	3,108	3,136	3,650	3,748	4,722	4,540	5,035	4,968	327	298	14	17

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	1.2	1.1	1.6	3.2
Institutions	1.1	1.3	1.4	0.8
Other settings	97.4	97.0	97.0	96.1
Missing data	0.4	0.6	0.0	0.0
Number	4,531	4,707	4,651	4,284

Cheryl Stephani, Assistant Secretary
Children's Administration
Department of Social and Health Services

The following are Washington's comments on the State's data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2003: Report to Congress*.

Washington State's focus is on achieving safety for all the children we serve and on providing stable permanent homes for children in the shortest time possible. We continue to complete adoptions for children more quickly than in previous years. A high percentage of children are reunified within twelve months of their placements. However, sound placement prevention and safety assessment practices reduce the population of children who are placed and who can be quickly and safely returned home. The children who remain in care have more stable placements than ever before and our foster care re-entry rate continues to decline each year.

Outcome Measure 1.1 (Recurrence of Maltreatment): Washington State uses many tools to improve the safety of children. We have developed a Safety Assessment for use during investigations of abuse and neglect and a Safety Plan for at-risk children who remain in their own homes. A Reunification Assessment is used to assess the safety of children returning home and a Transition and Safety Plan is completed before reunification. In spite of our emphasis on child safety, our maltreatment recurrence rate is higher than the national average. Improvements in the Child Protective Service system are being implemented which will increase child safety by reducing response times during investigations and by focusing on children who remain in their own homes following the investigation. In addition, the administration is developing information technology system solutions which will support social workers in completing critical tasks. Other efforts are underway to increase the effectiveness of services statewide using evidence-based interventions.

The Governor and legislature of Washington State are committed to management accountability and performance measurement. The Children's Administration has tracked performance on safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes over the last several years and uses outcome data in making decisions. While we support the federal effort to evaluate states' performance in comparison to federal standards, some unique characteristics of Washington's child welfare system make this comparison difficult. Because the scope of this report does not permit clarification of laws and policies that may influence the data, some of the results presented may be misleading.

We support the federal government's efforts to explore state differences which may impact the comparability of the data. This work will assist the federal government and individual states in their efforts to improve child welfare services for all children and their families.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of Washington's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, 10.8 percent of the children in Washington who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). Although this percent exceeds the national median of 7.1 percent, it represents an improvement in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (-6.1 percent change).

In 2003, the child maltreatment victim rate in Washington was 4.0 child victims per 1,000 children in the State population, which is less than the national median of 10.6 child victims per 1,000 children in the population. The child maltreatment victim rate in Washington did not change from 2000 to 2003.

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

In 2003, 0.21 percent of the children in foster care were found to be maltreated by foster parents or facility staff members. This percent not only is less than the national median of 0.39 percent, but also represents an improvement in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (-78.4 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003, 89.2 percent of children exiting foster care in Washington (measure 3.1) were discharged to a permanent home, which exceeds the national median of 86.3 percent. In addition, 82.8 percent of the children exiting foster care in 2003 who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home, which exceeds the national median of 72.2 percent. In comparison, 79.4 percent of the children exiting foster care in 2003 who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) were discharged to a permanent home, which is about equal to the national median of 79.5 percent.

With regard to ensuring that children emancipated from foster care (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) do not spend most of their formative years in foster care, in 2003, 25.7 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4). This percent not only is less than the national median of 29.6 percent, but also represents an improvement in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (-15.2 percent change).

In Washington, some children who are reported as emancipated from foster care were discharged from foster care prior to their 18th birthday. In 2003, for example, 170 children exiting foster care were age 18 or older at the time of exit. However, 338 children were reported as exiting to emancipation.

There were some differences with regard to exits to permanency in 2003 as a function of children's race or ethnicity (measure 3.5). (This was assessed only when a particular race or ethnicity accounted for at least 10 percent of the exits from foster care.) White (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care were as likely to be discharged to a permanent home (90.1 percent) as were Hispanic children exiting foster care (90.8 percent). However, both groups were slightly more likely to be discharged to a permanent home than were Black (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care (86 percent). In addition, the percent of Black (non-Hispanic)

children in the foster care population (11.3 percent) exceeded the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the State's child population (3.7 percent). This discrepancy did not exist for Hispanic children.

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, 75.1 percent of reunifications in Washington occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1). Although this percent exceeds the national median of 72.0 percent, it represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (-10.1 percent change). Also in 2003, 3.6 percent of reunifications occurred after the child had been in foster care for at least 36 months. This percent is about equal to the national median of 3.5 percent, but represents a decline in performance on the measure from 2000 to 2003 (+71.4 percent change).

With regard to re-entries into foster care, in 2003, 11.2 percent of the children entering foster care were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (measure 4.2). Although this percent exceeds the national median of 9.5 percent, it represents an improvement in performance on the measure from 2000 to 2003 (-9.7 percent change). However, an additional 12.2 percent of the children entering foster care were entering more than 12 months after a prior foster care episode. Consequently, 23.4 percent of all children entering foster care in Washington in 2003 had been in foster care at a prior time.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2003, 24.7 percent of finalized adoptions in Washington occurred within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 5.1). This percent is about equal to the national median of 23.9 percent and represents an improvement in performance on the measure from 2000 to 2003 (+25.4 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, 85.3 percent of the children in foster care for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings, which exceeds the national median of 84.2 percent (measure 6.1). Also in 2003, 59.1 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months, experienced no more than two placement settings, which is equal to the national median.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 4.0 percent of the children entering foster care who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). Although this percent is less than the national median of 8.3 percent, it represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (+73.9 percent change).

West Virginia [CONTEXT DATA]

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	400,764	395,442	393,549	390,901
Race/Ethnicity (%) ¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1
Asian	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	3.6	4.0	3.7	3.7
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8
White (non-Hispanic)	93.0	92.9	93.2	93.2
Two or more races	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.5
% Child population in poverty	18.3	22.2	25.1	26.7

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	8,244	7,907	6,635	8,875
Children in foster care on 9/30	3,388	3,298	3,220	4,069
Children adopted	352	362	361	322

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	27,145	67.7 per 1,000	26,812	67.8 per 1,000	24,089	61.2 per 1,000	43,523	111.3 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	8,244	20.6 per 1,000	7,907	20.0 per 1,000	6,635	16.9 per 1,000	8,875	22.7 per 1,000
Child fatalities	4	1.0 per 100,000	16	4.1 per 100,000	13	3.3 per 100,000	30	7.7 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	6.2	6.8	6.9	7.4
1-5 years	27.9	29.1	29.8	29.6
6-10 years	26.6	27.4	27.1	26.8
11-15 years	23.8	23.0	24.3	25.6
16+ years	5.5	5.6	5.7	5.4
Unknown	9.9	8.1	6.4	5.2
Number	8,244	7,907	6,635	8,875

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	4.2	3.3	3.4	3.5
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	0.6	0.4	0.8	0.8
White (non-Hispanic)	83.8	84.2	83.5	82.9
Two or more races	2.7	2.4	3.6	3.7
Unknown	8.4	9.3	8.6	8.9
Number	8,244	7,907	6,635	8,875

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	10.4	11.6	19.2	21.0
Medical neglect	1.2	0.9	1.3	1.1
Neglect	47.5	47.1	54.9	53.7
Physical abuse	29.1	28.6	30.7	32.0
Sexual abuse	7.7	7.0	7.7	6.6
Unknown/missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	18.7	23.5	6.4	5.3
Number	8,244	7,907	6,635	8,875

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	3,251	3,403	3,364	2,990	2,392	2,234	2,358	2,347	2,256	2,340	2,502	1,268	3,388	3,298	3,220	4,069
Median length of stay (months)	17.8	15.7	16.6	18.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.7	10.5	10.2	13.5	15.1	16.2	15.1	12.8

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	2.3	2.8	2.5	2.9	8.4	8.7	8.2	9.0	2.8	3.0	2.7	2.3	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.5
1 year	3.0	2.9	3.2	3.8	4.4	3.6	4.3	4.1	3.2	3.7	3.6	4.2	3.4	3.3	3.7	3.9
2 years	3.2	3.4	3.3	3.8	3.6	3.5	3.8	3.5	2.8	3.3	3.2	4.3	3.7	3.0	3.5	3.3
3 years	3.1	3.4	3.2	3.2	2.9	3.4	3.6	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.7	2.9	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.5
4 years	3.0	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.8	3.3	3.5	2.9	2.8	3.1	3.6	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.1	3.4
5 years	3.4	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.4	2.8	3.3	2.5	3.5	2.8	3.7	3.4	3.3	3.1	3.0
6 years	3.8	3.1	3.1	3.4	3.0	3.4	3.7	2.4	3.1	3.5	3.3	2.8	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.0
7 years	4.0	3.7	2.8	3.1	3.3	2.6	2.5	2.0	3.7	2.8	2.9	3.5	3.7	2.9	3.2	2.7
8 years	4.0	3.7	3.3	3.3	3.2	2.7	3.1	2.4	3.0	2.8	2.6	2.1	3.8	3.5	3.1	2.8
9 years	4.0	3.9	3.4	3.3	3.1	2.4	2.7	2.6	3.1	3.2	2.7	3.2	4.0	3.8	3.5	3.0
10 years	4.0	4.0	3.7	3.2	2.8	2.9	2.7	3.1	2.7	2.6	2.8	1.7	4.2	3.7	3.0	3.2
11 years	4.6	4.3	3.9	4.1	3.8	2.7	3.4	3.7	3.2	2.6	3.4	2.0	4.3	3.9	3.9	3.6
12 years	5.8	5.1	5.2	4.6	4.2	4.7	4.4	4.7	2.9	2.9	2.7	3.4	5.2	5.1	4.5	4.7
13 years	6.7	6.4	6.7	6.5	7.1	7.3	7.3	8.0	4.6	4.7	4.4	4.3	6.7	6.5	6.6	5.7
14 years	7.2	8.9	9.5	9.1	9.8	10.6	10.5	10.6	6.5	6.2	6.9	8.0	8.5	9.2	9.3	8.4
15 years	9.9	10.0	12.2	11.6	12.5	13.2	13.7	12.4	10.2	9.1	11.1	9.5	9.4	11.3	11.6	10.5
16 years	12.1	11.6	11.5	12.6	11.6	11.6	11.6	12.2	12.3	12.9	12.4	9.0	11.0	11.1	12.8	12.9
17 years	10.2	10.6	10.6	9.3	9.0	8.8	7.0	8.9	15.7	14.5	13.6	15.5	9.9	10.4	9.9	13.2
18 years	3.7	3.7	3.3	3.9	0.5	0.9	1.0	0.8	8.7	9.8	8.2	9.5	3.6	3.3	3.7	3.9
19 years	1.4	1.3	1.7	1.0	0.0	0.3	0.4	<.1	1.8	1.3	2.1	2.6	1.2	1.7	1.1	1.4
20 years	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	1.0	1.2	2.0	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.4
Missing data	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	9.1	8.2	7.9	6.9	6.8	7.1	6.2	6.9	8.2	7.6	7.3	7.9	8.1	7.9	7.1	6.6
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.0	1.5	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.6	0.7	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.2
White (non-Hispanic)	84.2	84.5	83.9	81.2	81.9	83.2	82.4	77.8	83.2	84.4	82.7	80.6	83.3	83.7	83.8	79.4
Two or more races	3.9	4.1	4.3	8.1	3.0	2.6	4.0	6.9	3.0	3.0	4.0	6.5	3.8	3.9	4.4	7.9
Unknown	1.7	1.8	2.6	0.7	6.8	5.9	5.4	1.4	4.3	3.4	4.2	0.6	3.5	3.4	3.4	1.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.2	6.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.5	0.0	0.0	0.1	3.7

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	762	729	1,000	1,036
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	19	84	770	747

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	3.9	4.1	3.7	4.6
1 year	4.6	4.8	5.5	5.8
2 years	5.8	4.7	5.1	5.2
3 years	5.6	6.3	4.8	5.5
4 years	6.3	6.9	4.8	4.7
5 years	6.6	5.9	3.8	4.8
6 years	7.2	6.3	5.6	5.8
7 years	7.7	5.1	4.7	5.0
8 years	7.7	7.0	4.5	5.4
9 years	7.7	7.3	4.5	5.3
10 years	8.5	6.4	5.5	4.5
11 years	6.3	7.3	6.0	6.3
12 years	6.2	7.4	5.4	7.1
13 years	6.4	5.6	6.9	5.7
14 years	2.9	5.2	7.6	6.9
15 years	2.8	3.7	7.0	7.2
16 years	2.6	2.2	6.5	4.0
17 years	0.9	2.7	4.1	3.8
18 years	0.1	0.4	2.9	1.4
19 years	0.0	0.3	0.7	0.9
20+ years	0.0	0.3	0.4	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	10.2	7.8	7.5	6.7
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	1.3	1.2	1.3	2.2
White (non-Hispanic)	81.2	82.7	84.1	79.2
Two or more races	5.9	6.6	5.8	9.7
Unknown	1.2	1.5	1.3	1.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	352	362	361	322

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.3
1 year	5.4	6.9	6.6	10.9
2 years	7.4	8.6	7.2	11.5
3 years	7.4	7.5	10.8	6.5
4 years	7.4	9.4	10.5	9.0
5 years	5.1	7.7	7.5	7.8
6 years	10.8	7.2	6.9	8.1
7 years	9.7	7.2	7.5	8.4
8 years	9.9	7.7	4.7	4.0
9 years	9.4	8.8	7.5	4.7
10 years	5.1	6.4	7.5	3.1
11 years	7.7	4.1	6.4	4.0
12 years	5.7	4.4	4.7	4.7
13 years	4.0	4.1	2.8	4.7
14 years	1.4	1.7	3.9	5.6
15 years	1.4	3.6	2.5	3.4
16 years	1.4	2.5	0.6	2.2
17 years	0.3	1.4	1.9	1.2
18 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	15.1	7.2	6.1	9.3
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	2.8	0.6	0.6	1.2
White (non-Hispanic)	76.4	84.3	84.8	81.4
Two or more races	5.4	7.7	8.3	7.5
Unknown	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

West Virginia [OUTCOMES DATA]

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	93.3	94.3	92.1	89.9
Children with one or more recurrences	6.7	5.7	7.9	10.1
Number	4,343	4,020	3,294	4,031

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	<.1	<.1	0.63	0.57
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.98	99.98	99.37	99.43
Number	5,208	5,182	5,203	5,058

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	12.3	14.4	10.4	22.5
Guardianship	<.1	0.6	0.6	2.1
Reunification	39.9	37.9	20.7	53.5
Other	9.7	8.8	8.1	12.1
Missing data	38.0	38.2	60.2	9.7
Number	2,256	2,340	2,502	1,268

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	—	—	—	37.4
Guardianship	—	—	—	1.9
Reunification	—	—	—	36.8
Other	—	—	—	13.6
Missing data	—	—	—	10.2
Number	—	—	—	361

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	<.1	0.5	0.8	1.6
Guardianship	<.1	0.4	0.4	1.6
Reunification	39.4	38.4	20.8	66.3
Other	14.7	13.7	12.6	17.3
Missing data	45.7	47.0	65.4	13.1
Number	1,180	1,185	1,295	624

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	34.5	29.6	19.2	30.7
Children older than 12 at entry	65.5	70.4	80.8	69.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	87	81	99	137

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/American Indian				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	26.5	14.5	6.6	25.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	1.7	0.5	1.0
Reunification	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	50.0	33.3	0.0	30.8	43.6	20.8	52.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	0.0	100.0	8.1	7.3	9.3	13.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	66.7	0.0	34.1	33.0	62.8	9.0
Number	0	0	1	0	1	4	3	1	185	179	183	100

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.1	20.0	5.0	22.2	11.1	14.2	10.8	23.1
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.3	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.5	0.7	2.5
Reunification	0.0	0.0	33.3	50.0	48.1	53.3	22.5	44.4	40.3	37.1	20.5	52.6
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	6.7	7.5	11.1	10.2	9.0	8.3	12.2
Missing data	0.0	100.0	66.7	0.0	40.7	16.7	65.0	22.2	38.4	39.3	59.7	9.5
Number	0	1	3	2	27	30	40	9	1,877	1,975	2,068	1,022

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	1.0	0.0	1.0	25.0	22.1	33.8	21.2	24.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	46.9	51.3	25.7	50.0	41.2	26.8	18.2	54.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	6.1	8.8	6.7	12.5	8.8	5.6	4.0	11.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	45.9	40.0	66.7	12.5	27.9	31.0	56.6	9.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	98	80	105	8	68	71	99	82	0	0	0	44

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	79.5	72.2	74.3	72.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	14.7	20.8	16.2	16.6
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	3.9	4.1	5.8	7.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	0.9	1.4	2.9	1.8
48 or more mos.	1.1	1.6	0.8	1.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	901	888	518	679

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	99.9	87.9	86.6	84.2
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	<.1	9.1	8.4	7.2
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	0.0	2.5	3.5	3.3
Missing data	<.1	0.5	1.4	5.3
Number	2,392	2,234	2,358	2,347

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	1.4	1.5	2.3	2.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	15.9	24.9	26.5	26.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	29.6	27.6	35.4	36.5
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	19.1	19.0	20.0	16.8
48 or more mos.	33.9	27.0	15.8	17.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	277	337	260	285

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	99.9	83.6	82.3	84.0	99.6	51.5	53.0	57.2	99.4	41.3	38.3	33.8	100.0	0.0	100.0	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	0.1	16.4	17.7	15.9	0.4	48.5	47.0	42.8	0.6	58.7	61.7	66.2	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0
Number	2,827	2,683	2,795	2,536	999	1,135	1,102	1,041	1,816	1,819	1,815	1,751	2	1	10	9

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	9.6	9.5	8.8	7.8
Institutions	1.1	0.9	1.3	1.0
Other settings	89.3	89.7	89.9	87.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.3
Number	1,072	939	1,072	1,019

West Virginia [STATE COMMENT]

Margaret Waybright, Commissioner
Bureau for Children and Families
Department of Health and Human Resources

The following are West Virginia's comments on the State's data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2003: Report to Congress*.

Section B (Child Maltreatment Overview): The number of children subject of an investigated report alleging maltreatment increased from 24,089 in 2002, to 43,523 in 2003. In the 2002 NCANDS data, West Virginia reported children with a substantiated report of maltreatment. In the 2003 NCANDS data, West Virginia reported all children with an allegation of maltreatment regardless of a substantiation of the allegation.

Section E (Children Adopted): The number of children in the AFCARS Adoption file is greater than the number in the AFCARS Foster Care file who exited placement with the exit reason of Adoption. Subsequent AFCARS reporting of this data improved due to the efforts of the Adoption Program and Adoption Field Staff coordinating data consistency.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of West Virginia's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, 10.1 percent of the children in West Virginia who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percent not only exceeds the national median of 7.1 percent, but also represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (+50.7 percent change).

The relatively high percentage of children in West Virginia who experienced maltreatment recurrence in 2003 corresponds to a very high child maltreatment victim rate in the State. In 2003, the child maltreatment victim rate in West Virginia was 22.7 child victims per 1,000 children in the State population. This rate far exceeds the national median of 10.6 child victims per 1,000 children in the population. However, the change in rate over the 4-year period from 2000 to 2004 suggests that there may be data quality concerns.

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

In 2003, 0.57 percent of the children in foster care in the State were found to be maltreated by foster parents or facility staff members. This percent exceeds the national median of 0.39 percent. Change in performance on this measure is difficult to assess because of variable data across the years suggesting data quality concerns.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

Performance with regard to achieving permanency for children exiting foster care is difficult to assess because about 10.0 percent of the children exiting foster care did not have reason for discharge information.

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

Performance on this measure is difficult to assess because 10.0 percent of the children exiting foster care did not have reason for discharge information.

With regard to re-entries into foster care, in 2003, 7.2 percent of the children entering foster care were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (measure 4.2). This percent not only is less than the national median of 9.5 percent, but also represents an improvement in performance on the measure from 2001 to 2003 (-20.9 percent change). (Data for 2000 appear to be unreliable for this measure.) Also in 2003, 3.3 percent of the children entering foster care were entering more than 12 months after a prior foster care episode. Consequently, 10.5 percent of all children entering foster care in 2003 had been in foster care at a prior time.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

Performance on this measure is difficult to assess because in 2003, 10.0 percent of the children exiting foster care did not have reason for discharge information.

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, 84.0 percent of the children in foster care for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings (measure 6.1), which is about equal to the national median of 84.2 percent. Also in 2003, 57.2 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months, experienced no more than two placement settings, which is less than the national median of 59.1 percent.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 8.8 percent of the children entering foster care in West Virginia who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percent is close to the national median of 8.3 percent and represents an improvement in performance on the measure from 2000 to 2003 (-17.8 percent change).

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	1,363,806	1,340,823	1,340,121	1,332,894
Race/Ethnicity (%)¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Asian	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.7
Black (non-Hispanic)	8.3	8.5	8.0	8.1
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	5.5	5.6	5.4	5.6
White (non-Hispanic)	80.4	80.1	81.0	80.6
Two or more races	2.0	2.0	1.8	1.9
% Child population in poverty	13.8	12.0	12.1	15.4

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	12,120	11,917	11,628	10,174
Children in foster care on 9/30	10,504	9,497	8,744	7,824
Children adopted	736	754	1,028	1,187

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	38,021	27.9 per 1,000	40,216	30.0 per 1,000	42,087	31.4 per 1,000	41,377	31.0 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	12,120	8.9 per 1,000	11,917	8.9 per 1,000	11,628	8.7 per 1,000	10,174	7.6 per 1,000
Child fatalities	10	0.7 per 100,000	17	1.3 per 100,000	14	1.0 per 100,000	12	0.9 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	5.6	5.7	6.1	6.2
1-5 years	24.7	24.2	22.7	23.0
6-10 years	26.1	26.1	25.1	24.1
11-15 years	35.1	35.3	37.7	37.6
16+ years	8.0	8.1	7.9	8.3
Unknown	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.7
Number	12,120	11,917	11,628	10,174

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	2.8	2.8	3.3	3.1
Asian	2.0	2.1	1.8	1.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	19.3	18.0	18.9	21.0
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	5.2	5.9	4.5	3.2
White (non-Hispanic)	69.4	67.4	67.6	65.0
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	1.2	3.8	4.0	6.3
Number	12,120	11,917	11,628	10,174

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.3
Medical neglect	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.7
Neglect	27.9	27.4	26.3	25.0
Physical abuse	15.4	15.5	14.5	13.8
Sexual abuse	40.0	38.7	42.2	41.4
Unknown/missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	20.3	21.7	21.8	23.1
Number	12,120	11,917	11,628	10,174

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	8,449	8,389	7,795	7,641	6,001	5,158	5,054	5,010	4,039	4,358	5,186	5,832	10,504	9,497	8,744	7,824
Median length of stay (months)	16.0	17.1	22.5	23.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	6.5	6.7	7.3	9.5	16.5	20.2	21.3	18.3

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	3.4	2.8	3.1	3.3	8.9	10.1	9.6	10.8	3.6	3.3	2.9	3.0	2.7	3.1	3.1	3.9
1 year	4.7	4.4	3.8	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.8	5.0	3.5	3.8	4.9	4.6	4.3	3.9	4.1	4.3
2 years	4.8	5.0	4.8	4.3	4.2	4.4	4.6	4.5	3.6	4.5	5.1	4.9	5.2	4.6	4.0	4.6
3 years	4.6	4.5	5.1	4.8	4.0	3.5	4.1	3.9	3.6	4.4	5.4	4.6	4.6	4.8	4.5	3.9
4 years	5.0	4.5	4.3	4.8	3.7	3.7	3.8	4.5	3.5	3.7	4.7	5.2	4.6	4.3	4.7	4.8
5 years	5.3	4.7	4.4	4.3	3.9	3.0	3.3	3.7	3.2	3.5	4.5	4.2	4.8	4.3	4.1	4.7
6 years	5.5	5.0	4.8	4.2	3.8	3.4	3.0	3.6	3.7	3.2	4.5	3.9	5.1	4.6	4.2	4.1
7 years	5.8	5.5	5.1	4.5	4.1	3.5	3.1	3.0	3.6	3.5	3.8	4.0	5.5	4.8	4.3	4.1
8 years	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.1	3.8	3.5	3.2	3.4	3.2	3.2	4.6	4.3	5.5	5.3	4.8	4.2
9 years	6.0	5.4	5.7	5.1	3.9	3.3	3.8	3.5	4.1	3.5	4.2	4.1	5.4	5.4	5.0	4.8
10 years	6.5	5.9	5.8	5.6	4.3	4.1	3.8	3.5	3.7	3.4	4.3	4.0	5.8	5.4	5.3	4.9
11 years	5.6	6.4	6.0	5.9	4.5	4.2	4.4	3.6	3.7	3.9	4.0	4.5	6.3	5.8	5.6	5.3
12 years	5.5	5.8	6.7	5.9	4.5	5.3	4.7	5.1	3.8	4.3	4.4	4.9	5.8	6.5	6.1	5.7
13 years	6.0	6.0	6.5	7.1	6.7	7.2	7.2	7.6	5.0	4.7	4.0	5.2	5.9	6.5	7.5	6.7
14 years	6.4	7.0	6.9	7.6	9.1	8.5	9.6	8.5	7.9	6.7	6.0	6.4	7.0	7.1	7.9	8.2
15 years	7.3	7.7	7.7	7.8	11.9	12.1	11.3	11.4	10.7	10.4	8.6	8.6	7.6	8.1	8.3	9.1
16 years	6.8	7.5	7.5	8.3	10.2	11.6	11.1	9.9	13.9	13.3	10.3	9.5	7.5	8.0	8.6	8.3
17 years	4.6	5.4	5.3	5.7	3.7	3.9	4.4	4.0	10.2	9.5	9.0	9.6	5.2	5.8	6.1	6.8
18 years	0.6	0.8	0.8	1.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.3	5.0	6.6	4.1	4.1	1.1	1.2	1.5	1.4
19 years	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1	<.1	<.1
20 years	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Missing data	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.2	<.1	<.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	<.1	0.1

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	3.0	2.2	2.1	1.8	3.5	3.6	3.2	3.9	5.1	4.0	3.2	2.8	2.5	2.1	1.8	2.4
Asian	1.1	0.9	0.9	1.2	2.0	2.1	2.2	1.7	2.8	1.9	1.6	1.9	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	50.0	53.6	53.6	50.1	30.7	25.3	26.5	25.3	21.3	25.9	29.9	33.7	50.2	50.6	49.3	44.0
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	5.8	6.0	7.3	7.6	5.5	7.0	7.7	8.0	4.4	5.0	7.3	7.5	6.1	7.2	7.6	7.6
White (non-Hispanic)	38.1	34.6	32.9	35.2	55.7	59.4	56.4	55.8	65.2	60.7	53.4	49.4	37.5	36.1	36.5	40.1
Two or more races	2.0	2.6	3.0	3.5	2.3	1.8	2.8	3.5	1.1	1.9	3.6	3.8	2.5	2.7	3.2	3.7
Unknown	<.1	<.1	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.5	1.0	<.1	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.7
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.0	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.0	<.1	0.1	0.3

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	1,038	1,640	1,676	1,715
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	782	314	413	630

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	1.3	2.2	2.4	3.3
1 year	3.9	3.8	3.4	4.7
2 years	6.6	5.9	3.8	5.8
3 years	7.0	6.3	6.6	5.9
4 years	6.5	6.8	6.1	6.7
5 years	5.7	5.9	5.8	7.2
6 years	7.5	6.0	5.9	6.1
7 years	7.9	7.3	6.2	6.5
8 years	7.9	8.3	7.2	6.1
9 years	7.1	7.7	8.2	6.8
10 years	7.3	8.3	8.0	7.4
11 years	7.4	7.6	7.9	7.3
12 years	6.1	7.0	7.9	7.8
13 years	4.3	5.4	6.6	5.8
14 years	5.0	4.0	5.0	4.5
15 years	3.7	3.0	3.8	4.1
16 years	2.3	2.7	2.4	2.3
17 years	1.6	1.7	2.1	1.2
18 years	0.8	0.1	0.5	0.3
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	3.9	1.7	1.5	1.6
Asian	1.3	0.2	<.1	0.9
Black (non-Hispanic)	33.5	66.6	67.5	59.3
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	5.5	9.0	8.5	9.4
White (non-Hispanic)	53.1	19.4	18.4	24.0
Two or more races	2.7	3.0	3.6	4.4
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	736	754	1,028	1,187

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	2.7	6.8	6.3	5.4
1 year	7.2	8.5	7.2	7.8
2 years	8.6	9.0	9.0	7.4
3 years	9.4	10.3	8.6	7.5
4 years	8.7	8.2	8.2	9.6
5 years	8.3	7.8	7.9	6.0
6 years	9.4	7.7	7.4	6.8
7 years	8.7	8.1	7.4	6.7
8 years	6.5	6.4	7.4	6.8
9 years	6.0	6.8	6.5	7.8
10 years	6.0	4.9	6.6	5.7
11 years	5.0	4.5	4.7	5.2
12 years	5.3	4.5	3.8	5.1
13 years	2.6	2.3	2.3	4.1
14 years	1.8	1.3	2.9	3.1
15 years	2.2	1.5	1.3	3.0
16 years	1.1	0.9	1.1	1.3
17 years	0.4	0.4	1.2	0.3
18 years	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.2
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	4.9	2.8	1.8	2.2
Asian	1.0	0.4	0.3	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	38.5	36.5	40.2	43.7
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	6.5	7.3	7.6	8.0
White (non-Hispanic)	47.8	46.6	44.5	39.9
Two or more races	1.2	6.5	5.7	5.9
Unknown	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—	—
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	12.0	9.6	20.6	22.1
Guardianship	0.4	0.8	1.1	5.6
Reunification	68.7	68.8	62.3	58.0
Other	18.8	20.6	15.4	11.4
Missing data	<.1	0.2	0.5	2.9
Number	4,039	4,358	5,186	5,832

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	27.0	6.8	25.6	41.9
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.2	1.7
Reunification	51.7	64.7	54.5	39.6
Other	21.3	28.4	19.7	14.7
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.1
Number	1,276	981	1,019	1,304

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.8	0.5	0.8	1.2
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.4	1.1
Reunification	67.6	67.5	68.5	70.2
Other	31.5	31.9	30.0	22.6
Missing data	0.1	0.1	0.4	5.0
Number	1,865	1,937	1,698	1,796

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	16.1	17.3	18.9	18.1
Children older than 12 at entry	78.7	76.8	65.3	71.0
Missing data	5.1	6.0	15.9	10.9
Number	254	336	334	238

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/American Indian				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	15.6	8.0	6.0	15.2	6.1	7.2	2.4	4.5	17.8	12.3	26.3	26.9
Guardianship	0.0	0.6	0.0	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2	2.3	2.7	10.9
Reunification	70.7	75.6	69.0	61.0	69.6	72.3	85.7	71.4	63.2	63.7	57.4	50.3
Other	13.7	15.9	24.4	19.5	24.3	20.5	11.9	19.6	17.5	21.1	13.3	8.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.6	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.5	0.3	0.6	0.2	3.9
Number	205	176	168	164	115	83	84	112	859	1,129	1,551	1,966

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.4	18.6	20.5	24.1	9.6	7.1	18.1	18.8
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.8	0.9	1.3	9.8	<.1	0.2	0.3	1.5
Reunification	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	61.8	61.8	65.1	57.4	70.7	71.4	64.4	63.5
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	18.0	17.7	12.6	7.5	19.6	21.3	17.0	13.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.5	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	2.6
Number	0	0	0	2	178	220	381	439	2,635	2,644	2,767	2,879

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.9	15.9	34.9	35.1	37.3	0.0	0.0	3.7	0.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	5.0	11.8	0.0	0.0	1.6	7.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	0.0	81.8	85.0	82.4	72.7	51.8	42.6	41.8	100.0	91.7	96.3	87.5
Other	100.0	18.2	10.0	0.0	9.1	13.3	11.7	11.8	0.0	8.3	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.9	2.3	0.0	9.0	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1	11	20	34	44	83	188	220	2	12	27	16

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	77.2	70.9	66.5	66.4
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	12.7	14.4	13.4	13.1
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	4.5	5.7	5.3	4.7
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.3	2.4	2.4	3.0
48 or more mos.	1.8	2.4	2.6	5.2
Missing data	2.5	4.0	9.8	7.5
Number	2,775	2,998	3,233	3,383

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	64.4	66.0	68.4	70.7
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	21.9	25.5	22.2	21.1
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	7.0	8.0	6.2	5.0
Missing data	6.6	0.5	3.2	3.3
Number	6,001	5,158	5,054	5,010

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	8.1	19.1	3.5	6.2
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	18.4	19.9	6.8	7.6
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	24.4	10.3	10.5	9.6
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	16.5	5.7	6.4	10.2
48 or more mos.	31.6	8.4	11.0	17.0
Missing data	1.0	36.6	61.9	49.5
Number	484	418	1,067	1,290

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	94.5	93.8	92.3	92.6	82.3	76.3	73.9	72.4	69.1	71.0	64.6	52.1	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	5.5	6.2	7.7	7.4	17.7	23.7	26.1	27.6	30.9	29.0	35.4	47.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	6,807	5,938	5,741	5,743	2,936	2,696	2,051	2,131	4,695	4,898	5,026	4,752	12	15	31	25

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	3.1	5.0	7.3	6.7
Institutions	3.3	3.6	3.5	3.0
Other settings	91.6	91.1	87.8	89.6
Missing data	2.1	0.3	1.4	0.8
Number	3,410	2,896	2,796	2,862

Burnie Bridge, Administrator
Division of Children and Family Services
Department of Health and Family Services

The following are Wisconsin's comments on the State's data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2003: Report to Congress*.

The Wisconsin Child Welfare program is primarily county-operated, except for the special needs adoption program and child welfare services in Milwaukee County, which are operated by the state Division of Children and Family Services. While the state fully implemented its SACWIS system in July 2004, some of the data included in the measures presented in this report came from the state's legacy child abuse and neglect and out-of-home care data systems.

Wisconsin continues to report child maltreatment data using the NCANDS Summary Data Component format. As such, the federal Children's Bureau is not able to calculate the state's performance on the measures for Safety Outcomes 1 and 2. Actual state performance on this measure will be possible when the state submits data via the NCANDS Child File format. However, using an alternate methodology approved by the Children's Bureau, estimates on these measures has been derived for the state's performance. The state's results for CY 2002 and CY 2003 on Safety Outcomes 1 and 2 are as follows:

Performance Standards	WI Data CY 2001 (Percent)	WI Data CY 2002 (Percent)	WI Data CY 2003 (Percent)
<i>Safety Outcome 1- Recurrence of Maltreatment</i>	6.99	6.04	7.13
<i>Safety Outcome 1- Maltreatment While in Care</i>	0.61	0.26	0.30

The out-of-home care, or foster care, population serviced in Wisconsin includes children who were placed in out-of-home care under a court order or through a formal voluntary placement agreement. Placement may be due to concerns related to child safety or to status offenses and/or delinquent behaviors that affect the child's ability to remain safely in his or her home. Approximately 65 percent of the FFY 2003 data related to the federal permanency measures is from the state's new SACWIS system. Data from this system represent a more accurate and complete understanding of child placements in Wisconsin.

The adoption data show the total number of finalized adoptions for children with special needs where the adoptive parents receive or may receive Adoption Assistance. Due to the sequencing of SACWIS implementation and data conversion processes, adoption data are incomplete and data quality has negatively affected the number of adoptions that can be used to calculate the state's performance on the Time to Adoption outcome measure. Many adoptions do not show the date of removal from home. This problem will be corrected with the full implementation of SACWIS.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of Wisconsin's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

Wisconsin's performance with regard to achieving outcome 1 cannot be assessed because the State did not provide 2003 data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) for calculating the measure for this outcome (measure 1.1). To ensure consistency across States, the Report to Congress presents only data submitted through NCANDS.

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

Wisconsin's performance with regard to achieving outcome 2 cannot be assessed because the State does not provide data to NCANDS for calculating the measure for this outcome (measure 2.1). To ensure consistency across States, the Report to Congress presents only data submitted through NCANDS.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003, 85.7 percent of children exiting foster care in Wisconsin (measure 3.1) were discharged to a permanent home, which is about equal to the national median of 86.3 percent. Also in 2003, 72.5 percent of the children exiting foster care in 2003 who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home, which is about equal to the national median of 72.2 percent. However, 83.2 percent of the children exiting foster care in 2003 who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) were discharged to a permanent home, which exceeds the national median of 79.5 percent.

With regard to ensuring that children emancipated from foster care (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) did not spend most of their formative years in foster care, in 2003, 18.1 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4). Although this percent is less than the national median of 29.6 percent, it represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (+12.4 percent change).

There were differences with regard to exits to permanency in 2003 as a function of children's race or ethnicity (measure 3.5). (This was assessed only when a particular race or ethnicity accounted for at least 10 percent of the exits from foster care.) White (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care were less likely to be discharged to a permanent home (83.8 percent) than were Black (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care (88.7 percent). However, the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the foster care population in 2003 (44.0 percent) was more than five times the percent of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the State's child population (8.1 percent).

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, 66.4 percent of reunifications occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1). This percent not only is less than the national median of 72.0 percent, but also represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (-14.0 percent change). In addition, 8.2 percent of reunifications occurred after the child had been in foster care for at least 36 months, which exceeds the national median of 3.5 percent.

With regard to re-entries into foster care, in 2003, 21.1 percent of the children entering foster care were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode, which exceeds the national median of 9.5 percent (measure 4.2). An additional 5.0 percent of the children entering foster care were entering more than 12 months after a prior foster care episode. Consequently, 26.1 percent of all children entering foster care in 2003 had been in foster care at a prior time.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

Wisconsin's performance on this measure cannot be assessed because 49.5 percent of children exiting to adoption did not have "time in foster care" information.

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, 92.6 percent of the children in foster care for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings, which exceeds the national median of 84.2 percent (measure 6.1). Also in 2003, 72.4 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months, experienced no more than two placement settings, which exceeds the national median of 59.1 percent.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 9.7 percent of the children entering foster care who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percent not only exceeds the national median of 8.3 percent, but also represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (+51.6 percent change).

Wyoming [CONTEXT DATA]

A. Context Statistics

General Child Population (Census Bureau)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children under 18 years	127,828	124,234	123,167	121,073
Race/Ethnicity (%)¹				
Alaska Native/American Indian	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.0
Asian	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.9
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	9.0	9.2	9.0	9.2
White (non-Hispanic)	84.7	84.5	85.0	84.7
Two or more races	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.8
% Child population in poverty	14.6	10.7	10.7	13.1

Child Welfare Summary	2000	2001	2002	2003
Child maltreatment victims ²	1,332	990	692	786
Children in foster care on 9/30	815	965	929	1,055
Children adopted	61	46	52	56

B. Child Maltreatment Data [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)]

Overview Maltreatment Information	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	3,864	30.2 per 1,000	4,184	33.7 per 1,000	4,355	35.4 per 1,000	4,529	37.4 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ³	1,332	10.4 per 1,000	990	8.0 per 1,000	692	5.6 per 1,000	786	6.5 per 1,000
Child fatalities	4	3.1 per 100,000	1	0.8 per 100,000	3	2.4 per 100,000	8	6.6 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	8.7	6.8	9.7	9.7
1-5 years	32.3	35.2	37.3	35.1
6-10 years	32.1	30.2	25.4	27.2
11-15 years	21.9	22.9	22.8	24.4
16+ years	5.0	4.7	4.8	3.6
Unknown	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0
Number	1,332	990	692	786

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%) ⁴	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	5.8	1.9	3.0	1.9
Asian	0.6	1.1	0.3	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	1.7	1.6	2.5	2.8
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	8.2	7.2	5.9	7.8
White (non-Hispanic)	76.8	80.8	81.8	78.1
Two or more races	0.0	0.3	0.1	1.0
Unknown	6.9	7.1	6.4	8.1
Number	1,332	990	692	786

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) ⁵	2000	2001	2002	2003
Emotional abuse	1.1	1.4	0.7	10.3
Medical neglect	1.2	1.8	2.9	1.1
Neglect	63.1	59.1	60.7	65.0
Physical abuse	27.3	28.9	30.8	14.8
Sexual abuse	10.3	10.7	12.3	11.3
Unknown/missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.7	0.4	0.0	5.6
Number	1,332	990	692	786

¹ Race/ethnicity data for 2001, 2002, and 2003 represent population estimates.

² A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

³ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 because Hispanics may be counted by Hispanic ethnicity and race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS): Foster Care File]

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Number	759	758	847	875	786	896	809	979	731	689	727	799	815	965	929	1,055
Median length of stay (months)	13.0	13.0	10.4	11.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.3	4.8	7.2	7.2	12.5	10.4	11.8	10.5

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	1.4	1.1	1.3	2.4	5.3	3.9	6.4	5.7	3.7	2.5	2.6	2.1	1.1	1.1	2.3	1.7
1 year	2.1	1.5	2.6	3.5	4.3	4.2	4.7	3.6	4.7	3.0	3.9	4.5	1.6	2.3	3.3	4.1
2 years	2.8	2.6	2.8	3.3	4.6	3.9	4.4	4.7	5.2	4.4	4.0	4.3	2.3	2.8	3.1	3.7
3 years	4.2	2.6	3.0	3.8	3.6	4.1	4.7	4.1	4.9	3.5	4.1	4.0	2.6	3.0	3.6	3.4
4 years	2.4	2.8	3.3	3.7	3.1	3.0	3.3	3.3	3.7	2.3	3.4	3.5	2.7	3.1	3.4	3.5
5 years	5.0	2.1	2.8	2.7	3.9	3.5	3.7	4.4	3.8	4.1	4.1	4.0	2.0	2.8	2.6	3.9
6 years	3.6	4.6	2.0	2.2	1.7	1.9	2.5	2.7	2.5	2.8	2.9	3.3	4.5	2.0	1.9	2.5
7 years	3.8	3.4	3.8	2.3	2.2	3.2	2.3	2.2	2.1	3.5	3.2	2.1	3.3	3.7	2.3	2.3
8 years	5.0	3.0	2.7	3.3	1.9	2.3	3.0	2.2	3.1	2.2	3.0	1.8	2.9	2.8	3.1	2.5
9 years	4.2	4.4	3.2	3.3	2.9	2.2	2.3	2.3	4.2	2.8	1.7	3.3	4.0	3.1	3.1	3.2
10 years	4.9	3.6	3.4	3.4	3.2	3.9	2.7	3.6	3.8	2.8	3.0	2.3	3.3	4.0	3.3	2.9
11 years	4.7	4.5	4.7	4.0	4.6	5.2	4.2	4.9	4.0	3.5	3.4	3.5	4.2	4.9	3.9	4.7
12 years	5.3	6.3	6.1	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.0	5.0	2.7	3.0	3.9	3.8	6.1	6.2	4.2	4.6
13 years	5.0	7.0	5.8	7.5	7.1	6.0	6.3	8.7	4.4	6.5	4.5	5.4	7.5	5.7	7.4	6.2
14 years	10.1	8.3	8.1	7.3	10.4	10.6	9.8	10.8	5.9	8.0	6.2	8.3	9.0	8.2	7.4	10.2
15 years	10.1	14.2	11.0	10.5	15.3	14.3	11.6	11.2	10.0	9.7	9.4	8.6	14.5	11.1	10.5	9.6
16 years	11.7	13.3	17.5	12.9	14.4	15.4	15.5	13.1	11.4	13.8	12.7	12.0	14.1	17.2	13.8	13.6
17 years	9.4	11.1	11.9	14.9	6.2	7.1	8.0	7.4	13.3	12.3	15.7	13.1	10.8	11.2	15.3	11.8
18 years	2.1	1.3	3.3	3.2	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.1	5.2	8.3	7.3	9.4	1.5	3.3	4.1	4.5
19 years	1.1	0.9	0.1	0.9	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.3	1.0	0.6
20 years	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.4
Missing data	0.7	0.8	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.7	0.8	0.2	0.2

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/ American Indian	3.6	2.2	1.4	1.7	1.8	1.5	2.3	2.0	2.6	2.2	1.9	1.9	2.7	1.6	1.8	1.9
Asian	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	4.3	4.5	2.5	3.2	2.2	1.9	2.2	2.6	1.8	3.2	1.2	1.9	4.5	3.0	3.2	3.6
Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	9.5	7.9	7.6	7.4	11.2	8.5	8.0	8.3	12.7	9.4	8.1	8.3	8.2	7.4	7.5	7.6
White (non-Hispanic)	80.5	82.2	86.0	84.0	79.4	83.6	81.6	80.3	78.2	79.2	84.0	82.0	81.5	85.6	83.6	82.1
Two or more races	0.0	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.3	0.5	0.9	0.5	0.1	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.9
Unknown	1.4	2.4	1.7	2.9	3.9	3.7	5.2	5.4	3.1	5.1	3.9	5.0	2.3	1.7	3.0	3.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁶ (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

Waiting for Adoption	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total waiting children	92	104	102	91
Numbers of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	39	54	53	60

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	0.0	0.0	3.9	1.1
1 year	0.0	3.8	2.0	3.3
2 years	1.1	1.0	2.9	0.0
3 years	4.3	2.9	4.9	5.5
4 years	7.6	3.8	7.8	6.6
5 years	1.1	7.7	6.9	6.6
6 years	8.7	0.0	5.9	3.3
7 years	8.7	6.7	2.9	3.3
8 years	5.4	8.7	5.9	4.4
9 years	18.5	7.7	4.9	7.7
10 years	8.7	13.5	6.9	6.6
11 years	5.4	8.7	10.8	8.8
12 years	6.5	7.7	6.9	11.0
13 years	7.6	6.7	6.9	6.6
14 years	4.3	7.7	7.8	8.8
15 years	5.4	3.8	6.9	4.4
16 years	4.3	4.8	1.0	9.9
17 years	2.2	3.8	3.9	1.1
18 years	0.0	1.0	1.0	1.1
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	2.2	1.9	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	8.7	6.7	2.9	3.3
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	12.0	5.8	6.9	7.7
White (non-Hispanic)	77.2	85.6	89.2	86.8
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS: Adoption File)

Adoptions	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total children adopted	61	46	52	56

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
<1 year	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.0
1 year	4.9	2.2	17.3	10.7
2 years	6.6	4.3	11.5	8.9
3 years	11.5	6.5	3.8	3.6
4 years	14.8	6.5	3.8	14.3
5 years	1.6	10.9	7.7	14.3
6 years	13.1	6.5	9.6	8.9
7 years	4.9	17.4	7.7	3.6
8 years	8.2	8.7	5.8	3.6
9 years	9.8	6.5	5.8	7.1
10 years	4.9	10.9	7.7	3.6
11 years	6.6	4.3	7.7	3.6
12 years	3.3	4.3	1.9	3.6
13 years	1.6	4.3	1.9	3.6
14 years	0.0	4.3	1.9	3.6
15 years	3.3	0.0	1.9	5.4
16 years	3.3	2.2	0.0	0.0
17 years	1.6	0.0	0.0	1.8
18 years	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.6	6.5	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.0	2.2	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	8.2	0.0	5.8	5.4
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	11.5	19.6	11.5	1.8
White (non-Hispanic)	78.7	71.7	80.8	85.7
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.0
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁶ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the prior Child Welfare Outcomes reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Wyoming [OUTCOMES DATA]

1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children without a recurrence	93.2	94.1	91.9	94.4
Children with one or more recurrences	6.8	5.9	8.1	5.6
Number	633	560	332	355

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS: Foster Care File, Jan.–Sept.)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.43	0.74	0.33	<.1
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.57	99.26	99.67	99.94
Number	1,406	1,486	1,506	1,662

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS: Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children from Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	4.4	5.2	6.7	7.1
Guardianship	6.6	5.2	4.0	3.8
Reunification	72.1	72.7	74.7	76.1
Other	15.7	13.9	10.9	9.1
Missing data	1.2	2.9	3.7	3.9
Number	731	689	727	799

3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	7.2	9.3	11.1	22.1
Guardianship	9.2	7.0	5.9	4.1
Reunification	63.2	62.0	62.2	59.0
Other	17.8	18.6	17.8	9.8
Missing data	2.6	3.1	3.0	4.9
Number	152	129	135	122

3.3 Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry into Foster Care (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.2
Guardianship	1.7	3.0	1.9	2.4
Reunification	69.0	70.3	73.4	76.9
Other	27.8	24.3	18.8	15.4
Missing data	1.2	2.2	5.4	5.1
Number	345	370	368	415

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children age 12 or younger at entry	13.9	6.7	12.9	11.5
Children older than 12 at entry	86.1	93.3	87.1	88.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	36	45	62	61

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/American Indian				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.2	20.0
Guardianship	5.3	6.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	30.8	9.1	0.0	0.0
Reunification	63.2	60.0	78.6	93.3	100.0	40.0	100.0	50.0	53.8	77.3	66.7	66.7
Other	31.6	13.3	7.1	6.7	0.0	40.0	0.0	0.0	15.4	9.1	11.1	6.7
Missing data	0.0	0.0	14.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	0.0	4.5	0.0	6.7
Number	19	15	14	15	4	5	1	4	13	22	9	15

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.5	9.2	10.2	1.5	4.5	4.8	6.5	7.5
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.5	4.6	3.4	3.0	6.1	5.5	4.4	4.1
Reunification	66.7	0.0	0.0	100.0	75.3	67.7	78.0	89.4	72.0	73.8	74.0	74.4
Other	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.8	12.3	5.1	1.5	15.9	13.7	11.6	10.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	6.2	3.4	4.5	1.4	2.2	3.4	3.8
Number	3	0	0	1	93	65	59	66	572	546	611	655

	Unable to Determine				Two or more races				Missing Data			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	8.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	69.6	71.4	82.1	82.5	100.0	100.0	80.0	66.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	21.7	20.0	10.7	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	8.6	7.1	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	23	35	28	40	4	1	5	3	0	0	0	0

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	81.6	78.6	73.8	78.1
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	12.9	14.8	18.8	16.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1.1	2.6	3.9	3.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	2.1	1.8	1.8	0.8
48 or more mos.	1.7	2.2	1.7	0.8
Missing data	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	527	501	543	608

4.2 Children Re-entering Foster Care (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children entering care for the first time	85.0	90.3	91.5	93.4
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	8.0	5.9	4.8	4.2
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.5
Missing data	7.0	3.8	3.2	1.9
Number	786	896	809	979

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than 12 mos.	21.9	11.1	10.2	10.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	18.8	16.7	32.7	28.1
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	21.9	25.0	14.3	26.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	21.9	5.6	8.2	19.3
48 or more mos.	15.6	41.7	34.7	15.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	32	36	49	57

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care less than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but less than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children with 2 or fewer placements	87.4	82.4	85.0	88.9	60.5	63.1	62.4	68.9	53.1	43.9	38.2	32.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	11.7	16.6	14.3	9.4	38.8	36.5	36.6	30.6	46.9	55.8	61.2	66.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	907	1,017	938	1,122	276	282	383	360	360	353	327	365	2	2	8	7

7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group homes	6.4	5.9	5.3	6.2
Institutions	4.8	3.9	4.7	4.0
Other settings	88.8	90.2	90.0	89.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	312	307	301	401

Wyoming [STATE COMMENT]

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The following is a discussion of Wyoming's performance on the national outcomes established for the Report to Congress. The discussion focuses on the State's performance in 2003 and on change in performance over time. Change over time was determined by calculating the percent change in performance from 2000 to 2003. A percent change that was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) was considered to represent "no change in performance."

Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

In 2003, 5.6 percent of the children who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percent not only is less than the national median of 7.1 percent, but also represents an improvement in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (-17.6 percent change).

Wyoming's relatively low percentage of children who experienced maltreatment recurrence in 2003 corresponds to a relatively low child maltreatment victim rate in the State. In 2003, the child maltreatment victim rate in Wyoming was 6.5 child victims per 1,000 children in the population, which is less than the national median of 10.6 child victims per 1,000 children in the population. The 2003 rate represents a decline from the rate in 2000 of 10.4 child victims per 1,000 children in the population.

Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

In 2003, 0.06 percent of the children in foster care in Wyoming were found to be maltreated by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). This percent not only is less than the national median of 0.39 percent, but also represents an improvement in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (-86.0 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In 2003, 87.0 percent of all children exiting foster care in Wyoming (measure 3.1) were discharged to a permanent home, which exceeds the national median of 86.3 percent. Also in 2003, 85.2 percent of the children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) were discharged to a permanent home, which exceeds the national median of 79.5 percent. In addition, 79.5 percent of the children exiting foster care in 2003 who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home, which exceeds the national median of 72.2 percent.

With regard to ensuring that children emancipated from foster care (either through legal action or because they reach the age of majority) do not spend most of their formative years in foster care, in 2003, 11.5 percent of the children reported as emancipated from foster care entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (measure 3.4). This percent not only is less than the national median of 29.6 percent, but also represents an improvement in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (-17.3 percent change).

There were some differences with regard to exits to permanency in 2003 as a function of children's race or ethnicity (measure 3.5). (This was assessed only when a particular race or ethnicity accounted for at least 10 percent of the exits from foster care.) Hispanic children exiting foster care were more likely to be discharged to a permanent home (93.9 percent) than were White (non-Hispanic) children exiting foster care (86.0 percent).

Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

In 2003, 78.1 percent of reunifications in Wyoming occurred within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 4.1). This percent exceeds the national median of 72.0 percent. Performance on this measure did not change from 2000 to 2003. In addition, only 1.6 percent of reunifications occurred after the child had been in foster care for at least 36 months, which is less than the national median of 3.5 percent.

With regard to re-entries into foster care, in 2003, 4.2 percent of the children entering foster care were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (measure 4.2). This percent not only is less than the national median of 9.5 percent, but also represents an improvement in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (-47.5 percent change). In addition, 0.5 percent of children entering foster care were entering more than 12 months after a prior foster care episode. Consequently, only 4.7 percent of all children entering foster care in Wyoming in 2003 had been in foster care at a prior time.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2003, 38.6 percent of finalized adoptions in Wyoming occurred within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (measure 5.1). Although this percent exceeds the national median of 23.9 percent, it represents a slight decline in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (-5.2 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In 2003, 88.9 percent of the children in foster care for less than 12 months experienced no more than two placement settings (measure 6.1), which exceeds the national median of 84.2 percent. Also in 2003, 68.9 percent of the children in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months, experienced no more than two placement settings, which exceeds the national median of 59.1 percent.

Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions

In 2003, 10.2 percent of the children entering foster care who were age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). Although this percent exceeds the national median of 8.3 percent, it represents an improvement in performance on this measure from 2000 to 2003 (-8.9 percent change).

Appendix A

ADOPTION AND SAFE FAMILIES ACT OF 1997

(PUBLIC LAW 105-89)
SECTION 203A

SEC. 203. Performance of States in Protecting Children.

(a) ANNUAL REPORT ON STATE PERFORMANCE.—Part E of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 670 et seq.) is amended by addition at the end of the following:

SEC.479A. Annual Report.

The Secretary, in consultation with Governors, State legislatures, State and local public officials responsible for administering child welfare programs, and child welfare advocates, shall:

- (1) develop a set of outcome measures (including length of stay in foster care, number of foster care placements, and number of adoptions) that can be used to assess the performance of States in operating child protection and child welfare programs pursuant to parts B and E to ensure the safety of children;
- (2) to the maximum extent possible, the outcome measures should be developed from data available from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System;
- (3) develop a system for rating the performance of States with respect to the outcome measures and provide to the States an explanation of the rating system and how scores are determined under the rating system;
- (4) prescribe such regulations as may be necessary to ensure that States provide to the Secretary the data necessary to determine State performance with respect to each outcome measure, as a condition of the State receiving funds under this part; and
- (5) on May 1, 1999, and annually thereafter, prepare and submit to the Congress a report on the performance of each State on each outcome measure, which shall examine the reasons for high performance and low performance and, where possible, make recommendations as to how State performance could be improved.

Appendix B

CHILD WELFARE OUTCOMES AND MEASURES



Child Welfare Outcome 1: Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

Measure 1.1: Of all children who were victims of substantiated or indicated child abuse and/or neglect during the first 6 months of the reporting period, what percentage had another substantiated or indicated report within a 6-month period?

Child Welfare Outcome 2: Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

Measure 2.1: Of all children who were in foster care during the reporting period, what percentage was the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff?

Note: The reporting period for this measure is January 1 to September 30 (9 months).

Child Welfare Outcome 3: Increase permanency for children in foster care

Measure 3.1: Of all children who exited foster care, what percentage left either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?

Measure 3.2: Of all children who exited foster care and were identified as having a diagnosed disability, what percentage left either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?

Measure 3.3: Of all children who exited foster care and were older than age 12 at the time of their most recent entry into care, what percentage left either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?

Measure 3.4: Of all children exiting foster care to emancipation, what percentage was age 12 or younger at the time of entry into care?

Measure 3.5: Of all children who exited foster care, what percentage by racial/ethnic category left either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?

Child Welfare Outcome 4: Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

Measure 4.1: Of all children who were reunified with their parents or caretakers at the time of discharge from foster care, what percentage was reunified in the following time periods?

- (1) Less than 12 months from the time of latest removal from home
- (2) At least 12 months, but less than 24 months
- (3) At least 24 months, but less than 36 months
- (4) At least 36 months, but less than 48 months
- (5) 48 or more months

Measure 4.2: Of all children who entered foster care during the reporting period, what percentage re-entered care:

- (1) Within 12 months of a prior foster care episode?
- (2) More than 12 months after a prior foster care episode?

Child Welfare Outcome 5: Reduce time in foster care to adoption

Measure 5.1: Of all children who exited foster care to a finalized adoption, what percentage exited care in the following time periods?

- (1) Less than 12 months from the time of latest removal from home
- (2) At least 12 months, but less than 24 months
- (3) At least 24 months, but less than 36 months
- (4) At least 36 months, but less than 48 months
- (5) 48 or more months

Child Welfare Outcome 6: Increase placement stability

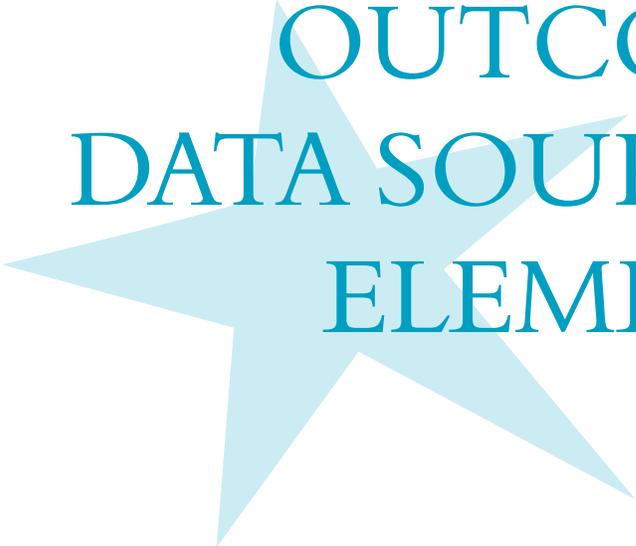
Measure 6.1: Of all children served who had been in foster care for the time periods listed below, what percentage had no more than two placement settings during that time period?

- (1) Less than 12 months from the time of latest removal from home
- (2) At least 12 months, but less than 24 months
- (3) At least 24 months, but less than 36 months
- (4) At least 36 months, but less than 48 months
- (5) 48 or more months

Child Welfare Outcome 7: Reduce placements of young children in group homes or institutions

Measure 7.1: For all children who entered foster care during the reporting period and were age 12 or younger at the time of their most recent placement, what percentage was placed in a group home or an institution?

Appendix C



CHILD WELFARE
OUTCOMES:
DATA SOURCES AND
ELEMENTS

CONTEXT INFORMATION

Section A. Key Context Statistics	
<i>Items</i>	<i>Data Sources and Elements</i>
Total Children Under 18 Years	U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census
Child Population in Poverty	U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census
Section B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System)	
<i>Items</i>	<i>Data Sources and Elements</i>
Children Subject of an Investigated Report Alleging Child Maltreatment	<p>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau, National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)</p> <p>For 2000 there were three possible data sources:</p> <p>(1) NCANDS Child File: Elements 27, 29, 31, 33, Maltreatment Disposition Level;</p> <p>(2) NCANDS DCDC: Elements 21, 23, 25, 27, Maltreatment Disposition Level; or</p> <p>(3) NCANDS SDC: Item 3.1, Children Subject of a CPS Investigation or Assessment by Disposition.</p> <p>For 2001-2003, there were two possible data sources:</p> <p>(1) NCANDS Child File: Elements 27, 29, 31, 33, Maltreatment Disposition Level; or</p> <p>(2) NCANDS SDC: Item 3.1, Children Subject of a CPS Investigation or Assessment by Disposition.</p>
Child Maltreatment Victims	<p>For 2000, there were three possible data sources:</p> <p>(1) NCANDS Child File, 2000: Elements 27, 29, 31, 33, Maltreatment Disposition Level;</p> <p>(2) NCANDS DCDC, 2000: Element 21, 23, 25, 27, Maltreatment Disposition Level; or</p> <p>(3) NCANDS SDC, 2000: Sum of Item 3.1A, Children for Whom the Allegation of Maltreatment was Substantiated; 3.1B, Children for Whom the Allegation of Maltreatment was Indicated; and 3.1C, Children for Whom the Allegation of Maltreatment was Given an Alternative Response that Identified Child Victim(s).</p> <p>For 2001-2003, there were two possible data sources:</p> <p>(1) NCANDS Child File: Elements 27, 29, 31, 33, Maltreatment Disposition Level; or</p> <p>(2) NCANDS SDC: Sum of Item 3.1A, Children for Whom the Allegation of Maltreatment was Substantiated; 3.1B, Children for Whom the Allegation of Maltreatment was Indicated; and 3.1C, Children for Whom the Allegation of Maltreatment was Given an Alternative Response that Identified Child Victim(s).</p>
Child Fatalities	<p>For 2000, there were three possible data sources:</p> <p>(1) NCANDS Child File, 2000: Element 34, Maltreatment Death;</p> <p>(2) NCANDS DCDC, 2000: Element 28, Maltreatment Death; or</p> <p>(3) NCANDS SDC, 2000: Item 5.1, Child Victims who Died as a Result of Maltreatment.</p> <p>For 2001-2003, there were two possible data sources:</p> <p>(1) NCANDS Child File: Element 34, Maltreatment Death; or</p> <p>(2) NCANDS SDC: Item 5.1, Child Victims who Died as a Result of Maltreatment.</p>
Age of Child Victims	<p>For 2000, there were three possible data sources:</p> <p>(1) NCANDS Child File, 2000: Element 12, Child Age at Report, or a combination of Element 6, Report Date and Element 13, Child Date of Birth;</p> <p>(2) NCANDS DCDC, 2000: Element 11, Child Age at Report, or a combination of Element 6, Report Date and Element 12, Child Date of Birth; or</p> <p>(3) NCANDS SDC, 2000: Item 4.2, Child Victims By Age.</p> <p>For 2001-2003, there were two possible data sources:</p> <p>(1) NCANDS Child File: Element 12, Child Age at Report, or a combination of Element 6, Report Date and Element 13, Child Date of Birth; or</p> <p>(2) NCANDS SDC: Item 4.2, Child Victims By Age.</p>
Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims	<p>For 2000, there were three possible data sources:</p> <p>(1) NCANDS Child File, 2000: Elements 15 through 20, Child Race, and Element 21, Child Ethnicity;</p> <p>(2) NCANDS DCDC, 2000: Element 14, Child Race, and Element 15, Child Ethnicity; or</p> <p>(3) NCANDS SDC, 2000: Item 4.4, Child Victims by Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity, and Item 4.5, Child Victims by Race.</p> <p>For 2001-2003, there were two possible data sources:</p> <p>(1) NCANDS Child File: Elements 15 through 20, Child Race, and Element 21, Child Ethnicity; or</p> <p>(2) NCANDS SDC: Item 4.4, Child Victims by Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity, and Item 4.5, Child Victims by Race.</p>

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims	<p>For 2000, there are three possible data sources:</p> <p>(1) NCANDS Child File, 2000: Elements 26 through 33, Maltreatment Type, Maltreatment Disposition Level;</p> <p>(2) NCANDS DCDC, 2000: Elements 20 through 27, Maltreatment Type, Maltreatment Disposition Level; or</p> <p>(3) NCANDS SDC, 2000: Item 4.1, Child Victims by Type of Maltreatment.</p> <p>For 2001 - 2003 there are two possible data sources:</p> <p>(1) NCANDS Child File: Elements 26 through 33, Maltreatment Type, Maltreatment Disposition Level; or</p> <p>(2) NCANDS SDC: Item 4.1, Child Victims by Type of Maltreatment.</p>
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Section C. Children in Foster Care (Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System)

<i>Items</i>	<i>Data Sources and Elements</i>
Children (for each FY) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Care On 10/1 • Entered Care • Exited Care • In Care On 9/30 • Total Served (FY) 	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) AFCARS Foster Care File: Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; Element 56, Date of Discharge from Foster Care.
Children's Median Length of Stay (for each FY) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Care On 10/1 • Exited Care • In Care On 9/30 	AFCARS Foster Care File: Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; Element 56, Date of Discharge from Foster Care.
Age of Children (for each FY) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entered Care • Exited Care • In Care On 9/30 	AFCARS Foster Care File: Element 6, Date of Birth; Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; Element 56, Date of Discharge from Foster Care.
Race/Ethnicity of Children (for each FY) In Care On 9/30	AFCARS Foster Care File: Element 8, Race; and Element 9, Hispanic Origin

Section D. Children Waiting to be Adopted on 9/30 (AFCARS)

<i>Items</i>	<i>Data Sources and Elements</i>
Children Waiting to be Adopted	AFCARS Foster Care File: Element 6, Date of Birth; Element 35, Death of Parent; Element 43, Most Recent Case Plan Goal; Element 47, Date of Mother's Termination of Parental Rights; and Element 48, Date of Father's Termination of Parental Rights.
Children Whose Parents' Rights Have Been Terminated	AFCARS Foster Care File: Element 6, Date of Birth; Element 35, Death of Parent; Element 47, Date of Mother's Termination of Parental Rights; and Element 48, Date of Father's Termination of Parental Rights.
Age of Waiting Children	AFCARS Foster Care file: Element 6, Date of Birth; Element 35, Death of Parent; Element 43, Most Recent Case Plan Goal; Element 47, Date of Mother's Termination of Parental Rights; Element 48, Date of Father's Termination of Parental Rights.
Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children	AFCARS Foster Care File: Element 8, Race; and Element 9, Hispanic Origin; Element 6, Date of Birth; Element 35, Death of Parent; Element 43, Most Recent Case Plan Goal; Element 47, Date of Mother's Termination of Parental Rights; Element 48, Date of Father's Termination of Parental Rights.

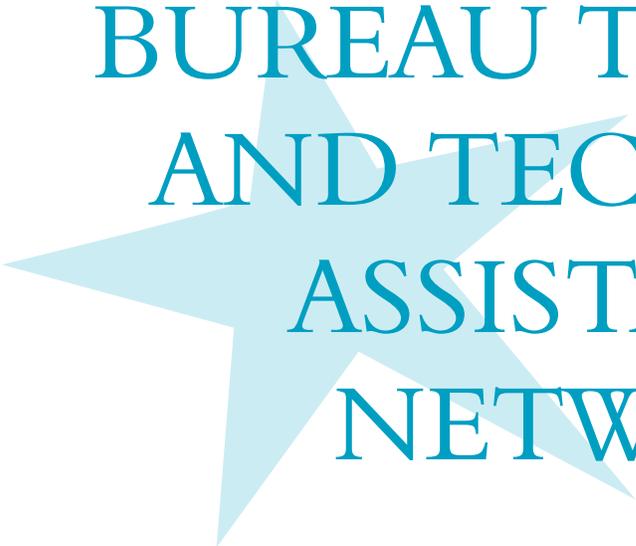
Section E. Children Adopted (AFCARS)

<i>Items</i>	<i>Data Sources and Elements</i>
Age of Children Adopted	AFCARS Adoption File: Element 4, State Involvement; and Element 5, Child's Date of Birth
Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted	AFCARS Adoption File: Element 4, State Involvement; Element 7, Race; and Element 8, Hispanic Origin.

OUTCOME INFORMATION

Child Welfare Outcome Measures	Data Sources and Elements
<i>Outcome 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)</i>	
1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment	<p>For 2000 there were two possible data sources: (1) NCANDS Child File, 2000: Element 3, Report ID; Element 4, Child ID; Element 6, Report Date; and Elements 27, 29, 31, and 33, Maltreatment Disposition Level; or (2) NCANDS DCDC, 2000: Element 3, Report ID; Element 4, Child ID; Element 6, Report Date; and Elements 21, 23, 25, and 27, Maltreatment Disposition Level.</p> <p>For 2001 to 2003, the data source was: (1) NCANDS Child File: Element 3, Report ID; Element 4, Child ID; Element 6, Report Date; and Elements 27, 29, 31, and 33, Maltreatment Disposition Level.</p>
<i>Outcome 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster (NCANDS and AFCARS)</i>	
2.1 Maltreatment In Foster Care	<p>AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database, Element 21, Date of Latest Removal, and Element 56, Date of Discharge from Foster Care</p> <p>For 2000 there were two possible data sources: (1) NCANDS Child File 2000: Element 3, Report ID; Element 4, Child ID; and Elements 89, 108, and 127, Perpetrator Relationship; or (2) NCANDS DCDC 2000: Element 3, Report ID; Element 4, Child ID, Elements 80, 93, and 106, Perpetrator Relationship.</p> <p>For 2001 – 2003 the data source was: (1) NCANDS Child File: Element 3, Report ID; Element 4, Child ID; and Elements 89, 108, and 127, Perpetrator Relationship.</p>
<i>Outcome 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS)</i>	
3.1 Exits From Foster Care	AFCARS Foster Care File: Element 56, Date of Discharge from Foster Care; and Element 58, Reasons for Discharge
3.2 Exits Of Disabled Children	AFCARS Foster Care File: Element 10, Child Diagnosed with Disabilities; Element 56, Date of Discharge from Foster Care; and Element 58, Reasons for Discharge
3.3 Exits Of Children Age 12 Or Older At Entry	AFCARS Foster Care File: Element 6, Date of Birth; Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; and Element 58, Reasons for Discharge.
3.4 Exits to Emancipation	AFCARS Foster Care File: Element 6, Date of Birth; Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; and Element 58, Reasons for Discharge.
3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity	AFCARS Foster Care File: Element 8, Race; Element 9, Hispanic Origin; and Element 58, Reasons for Discharge.
<i>Outcome 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS)</i>	
4.1 Time to Reunification	AFCARS Foster Care File: Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; Element 56, Date of Discharge from Foster Care; and Element 58, Reasons for Discharge.
4.2 Re-entries of Children Who Entered Foster Care During Fiscal Year	AFCARS Foster Care File: Element 19, Total Number of Removals; Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; and Element 56, Date of Discharge from Foster Care.
<i>Outcome 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS)</i>	
5.1 Time to Adoption	AFCARS Foster Care File: Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; Element 56, Date of Discharge from Foster Care; and Element 58, Reasons for Discharge.
<i>Outcome 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS)</i>	
6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care	AFCARS Foster Care File: Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; Element 24, Number of Previous Settings in Episode; and Element 56, Date of Discharge from Foster Care.
<i>Outcome 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS)</i>	
7.1 Placement Settings of Children Age 12 or Younger Who Entered Care During FY	AFCARS Foster Care File: Element 6, Date of Birth; Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; Element 23, Placement Date in Current Setting; Element 41, Current Placement Setting.

Appendix D



CHILDREN'S
BUREAU TRAINING
AND TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE
NETWORK

NATIONAL CHILD WELFARE RESOURCE CENTER FOR ORGANIZATIONAL IMPROVEMENT

Who We Are

The National Child Welfare Resource Center for Organizational Improvement strengthens and supports State and Tribal agencies committed to the welfare of children, youth, and families through training, technical assistance, and evaluation. The aim is to improve management and operations, bolster organizational capacity, promote service integration, and develop supervisory and management systems, resulting in improved outcomes for children and families.

The Center also coordinates, facilitates and evaluates onsite training and technical assistance across the network of seven National Resource Centers and AdoptUSKids. The Center facilitates the intake and assessment of State requests, assists in the development of work plans, and evaluates the impact of network services. States can contact the Center for assistance in identifying appropriate Centers to meet their technical assistance needs.

How We Can Help

The Center offers technical assistance, training, and publications to assist states in the areas of:

Strategic Planning

The Center can help States with all aspects of strategic planning, including developing CFSR Statewide Assessments and Program Improvement Plans (PIPs); assessing community needs and resources; developing and implementing comprehensive strategic plans across the State agency; integrating strategic plans; and developing annual progress and services reports.

Implementing Quality Improvement

The Center has experience developing quality improvement systems to monitor performance for both child welfare agencies and courts. Center staff can help train administrators and staff on how to develop and implement such systems and how to integrate CFSR requirements into quality improvement systems.

Evaluating Outcomes

Center staff can assist States with developing targeted performance outcomes, using outcome data, and making data-driven decisions at all agency levels.

Facilitating Stakeholder Involvement

The Center helps States develop collaborative strategies and involve stakeholder agencies in the CFSR process and other ongoing agency activities, particularly in the areas of domestic violence and substance abuse services, court and legal systems, and community programs. Staff also can help agencies work collaboratively with other community and public agencies to expand the array of targeted services for children and families.

Training Systems and Workforce Development

The Center helps State agencies assess and improve their comprehensive training systems for new and ongoing workers. The Center also helps States implement innovative strategies related to recruitment, retention and other workforce issues.

Teleconferences and Publications

The Center offers numerous, free teleconferences and publications to help States with organizational improvement and the CFSR process, including:

Teleconference Sessions

- Program Improvement Planning: An Overview.
- Actively Engaging Stakeholder and Community Partners on the CFSR Process.
- A Framework for Quality Assurance.
- Leadership, Systemic Change and Change Management.
- Creating Innovative Partnerships to Drive Resource Development.

Print and Web Publications

- Strategic Planning for Child Welfare Agencies
- A Framework for Quality Assurance in Child Welfare.

- Financing Strategies to Support Comprehensive Community-Based Services for Children and Families.
- Implementing Concurrent Planning: A Handbook for Child Welfare Administrators.

Newsletters

- Implementing Program Improvement Plans
- Effective Strategies for Leaders: Interviews with Departing Directors
- Using Information Management to Support the Goals of Safety, Permanency, and Well-Being.
- Supervisors as Managers: Understanding and Using Outcome Data.

For More Information

Address: Muskie School—USM
P.O. Box 15010
400 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04112-5010

Phone: (800) HELP KID or (207) 780-5810

Fax: (207) 780-5817

E-Mail: helpkids@usm.maine.edu

Web site: www.nrcoi.org

Contact: Peter Watson, Director

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Who We Are

The National Resource Center for Child Protective Services (NRCCPS) provides expert consultation, technical assistance and training in the area of child protective services (CPS). The NRCCPS helps to build the capacity of State, local, Tribal and other publicly administered or supported child welfare agencies to achieve safety, permanency, and well-being for children and families.

The specific focus of the National Resource Center for Child Protective Services is to develop and integrate policies and practices that improve the prevention, reporting, assessment and treatment of child abuse and neglect.

How We Can Help

The NRCCPS can help to build State, local and Tribal capacity through the following key activities:

- The planning and implementing of systemic changes as defined in the States' Program Improvement Plan (PIP).
 - The provision of technical assistance and consultation directly on-site as well as through state-of-the-art communication and technology-based methods.
 - The development and delivery of training curricula, guidelines and training materials which address identified needs of State, local, and Tribal agencies and courts.
 - Seeking out and disseminating evidence-based practices which will likely contribute to the achievement of PIP strategies.
 - Providing expertise on family-centered practices including healthy marriage, community collaboration, and individualized services.
 - Providing expertise on substance abuse, domestic violence, and mental health and the impact of these on child maltreatment and on CPS intervention strategies.
- Providing expertise on the CAPTA, ASFA, and ICWA requirements which must be addressed to meet legislated prevention, reporting, investigation, and treatment requirements.
 - Supporting and coordinating communication among and between the State Liaison Officers (SLO) and the Children's Bureau.

Strengthening Programs to Improve Outcomes

The NRCCPS can help States identify and implement program improvement strategies at intake, investigation, assessment, case disposition, and case planning. Staff can assist with designing safety, risk, and family assessments, differential response approaches, and family reunification protocols for improved decision-making and outcome achievement.

CAPTA Requirements

NRCCPS is especially equipped to help States address the eligibility requirements for the CAPTA State grant, including the recent requirements resulting from the 2003 reauthorization.

SLO Support and Communication

The NRCCPS provides support to the State Liaison Officers through an annual survey of their needs, followed by teleconferences to provide training and information and an SLO newsletter that provides information on CAPTA, ASFA and ICWA implementation, challenges, and issues. NRCCPS also assists the Children's Bureau in planning an annual SLO conference to further build State capacity.

Collaboration and Coordination

The NRCCPS works as a member of the Children's Bureau Training and Technical Assistance Network. Collaboration includes working on technical assistance, training and other capacity building activities in collaboration with other National Resource Centers and AdoptUSKids and participating with the National Child Welfare Resource Center on Organizational Improvement on the evaluation NRCCPS services.

For More Information

Address: 925 #4 Sixth Street NW
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

Phone: (505) 345-2444

Fax: (505) 345-2626

E-Mail: e-mail@nrccps.org

Web site: www.nrccps.org

Contact: Theresa Costello, Director
(505) 301-3105 mobile
Reed Holder, Coordinator of
Communications and Quality Control
(303) 369-8008

NATIONAL CHILD WELFARE RESOURCE CENTER ON LEGAL AND JUDICIAL ISSUES

Who We Are

The National Child Welfare Resource Center on Legal and Judicial Issues (RCLJI) provides expertise to State and Tribal agencies and courts on legal and judicial aspects of child welfare. The Resource Center is dedicated to achieving safety, permanence and well-being for abused and neglected children through improved laws and judicial decision-making. Areas of focus include: permanency decision-making, adherence to ASFA and other federal laws, the court's role in the CFSR and child welfare reform, high quality legal representation for all parties, judicial and attorney workloads, quality assurance for courts and legal offices, effective forensic performance by agencies, the impact of ASFA on youth in the juvenile justice system, education needs of children in foster care, legal ethics, and the interplay of domestic violence and child welfare.

How We Can Help

RCLJI offers States the following assistance with their Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSR):

Collecting and Analyzing Data

RCLJI can help coordinate focus groups as a method of collecting data from judges, lawyers, and other stakeholders for the CFSR. Staff can also help analyze data the State is collecting to determine how effectively the courts are achieving safety, permanence, and well-being for children.

Legal and Judicial Issue Analysis

RCLJI staff can help by reviewing CFSR Statewide Assessments, final reports, and Program Improvement Plans (PIPs); identifying legal barriers to best practice; and recommending strategies to overcome barriers. RCLJI can also meet with the agency and/or court to help pinpoint underlying factors of legal system issues.

Promoting Stakeholder Involvement

The courts need to feel they are part of the child welfare system, and the agency needs to be able to approach and work with the courts. RCLJI can assist in making these connections and fostering a team attitude. Staff can help States identify and engage all the most appropriate legal system participants—

including representatives of the Court Improvement Project—and help ensure they will stay involved throughout the process, from Statewide Assessment through implementation of the PIP.

Action Planning

In coordination with the National Resource Center on Organizational Improvement, RCLJI staff can meet with the agency and/or court to help develop specific, realistic strategies to address issues identified in the final report, such as case planning and quality assurance. This can happen before or after the creation of the PIP.

PIP Implementation

The Resource Center offers training and technical assistance tailored to your needs as determined by the PIP. Examples include:

- Improving legal representation of the agency and other parties.
- Improving the timeliness of judicial decision-making.
- Developing judicial performance measurement and quality assurance.
- ASFA nuts and bolts implementation for judges.
- Analysis of State statutes and court rules.
- Analysis of judicial and attorney workloads with strategies for improvement.

Other Training and Technical Assistance

The Center has new workshops that may be helpful to States and Tribes in the CFSR process, including:

- *Best Practices to Implement ASFA: Creative Strategies for Permanence.*
- *Making it Permanent: Efforts to Finalize Permanency Plans for Children in Foster Care.*
- *Meeting Educational Needs of Children in Foster Care.*

For More Information

Address: 740 15th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005-1019

Phone: (800) 285-2221

Fax: (202) 662-1755

E-Mail: mark.hardin@staff.abanet.org

Web site: www.abanet.org/child/rclji

Contact: Mark Hardin, Director
Mimi Laver, Assistant Director
Jennifer Renne for TA requests
(202) 662-1731
rennej@staff.abanet.org

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR FAMILY-CENTERED PRACTICE AND PERMANENCY PLANNING

Who We Are

The National Resource Center for Family-Centered Practice and Permanency Planning focuses on increasing the capacity and resources of the State, Tribal, and other publicly supported child welfare agencies to promote family-centered practices that support the safety, permanency, and well-being of children while meeting the needs of their families. The NRCFCPPP helps States and Tribes to implement strategies to expand knowledge, increase competencies, and change attitudes of child welfare professionals at all levels, with the goal of infusing family-centered principles and practices in their work with children, youth and families who enter the child welfare system. The NRCFCPPP builds states knowledge of foster care issues including placement stability and other foster care issues.

How We Can Help

On Site Training and Technical Assistance

The NRCFCPPP offers on site training and technical assistance to States, Territories, Tribes, and other publicly supported child welfare agencies on a wide range of issues which promote sustainable systemic reform in child welfare. The NRCFCPPP is particularly focused on working with states throughout all stages of the Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSRs), including the development and implementation of the States' Program Improvement Plan (PIP).

Sample areas of technical assistance include:

- Supporting practices such as family group conferencing and family group decision making that engage families in assessment, case planning, case review, and timely decision making about reunification, adoption, guardianship, kin placement or appropriate use of APPLA
- Strategies to engage parents, courts, legal personnel and community partners in the provision of safety focused, family-centered services to children, youth, and families
- Promoting quality goal-oriented worker/child visiting, worker/parent (foster & birth)

visiting and goal-oriented visitation between children and youth in care and their parents

- Permanency planning, effective concurrent planning and goal achievement for all children and adolescents
- Supporting recruitment and retention of resource families and dual licensure issues
- Foster care issues including increasing placement stability, reducing disproportional representation of children and youth of color in foster care and development of effective post permanency services
- Building relationships between tribes and states including promoting cultural competency to increase understanding of Indian culture and improving state compliance with ICWA
- Facilitating IV-E Agreements between states and tribes
- Engaging fathers and paternal resources in permanency planning
- Consideration of sibling issues
- Working with birth families to promote reunification
- Service enhancement including developing and strengthening home-based services to preserve families and supporting child welfare practice that addresses substance abuse, domestic violence, and mental health issues for families and health and mental health care issues for children and youth in foster care

Information Services

The NRCFCPPP also offers information services to State, Tribal, and other publicly supported child welfare agencies to promote family-centered practices that support the safety, permanency, and well-being of children while meeting the needs of their families. Information is provided in the following formats:

- NRCFCPPP Weekly Update
- NRCFCPPP Web-Based Information Services
- Publications, Curriculums in English/Spanish
- NRCFCPPP Quarterly Webcasts
- NRCFCPPP Semi-Annual Newsletter
- NRCFCPPP Teleconference Series
- Response to State/Tribe Requests for Information

For More Information

Address: Hunter College School of Social Work
129 East 79th Street, Suite 801
New York, NY 10021

Phone: (212) 452-7053

Fax: (212) 452-7475

E-Mail: gmallon@hunter.cuny.edu

Web site: www.nrcfcppp.org

Contact: Gerald P. Mallon, DSW, Executive Director

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR CHILD WELFARE DATA AND TECHNOLOGY

Who We Are

The National Resource Center for Child Welfare Data and Technology (NRC-CWDT) provides assistance to States to develop, implement, and improve effective case management and data collection systems and to use data to enable State child welfare agencies, courts and tribes to manage child welfare programs in order to improve outcomes for children and families. The NRC-CWDT provides technical assistance in the use of data to meet the reporting requirements of the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) and to meet the goals of the Adoption and Safe Families Act, the Child and Family Services Reviews, and other Federal, State, and local legislative requirements, policies and initiatives. The Center, through our website and other means, also provides for the dissemination of best practices around automation issues such as the development and implementation of Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information Systems (SACWIS). NRC-CWDT, as a service of the Children's Bureau, helps States, Tribes and courts to assure the quality of data collected, provide staff at all levels with appropriate information, and build the capacity to use the information for decision-making in daily practice.

How We Can Help

The Center addresses a broad range of program and technical issues, including assisting States with their Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) process, Program Improvement Plans, Tribal and court child welfare issues, and other areas related to data and automation. Assistance may include:

Training

The Center provides training on data use and data management at all levels. This includes the development of customized training curricula and materials, the delivery of training to key staff, and training of trainers to promote system-wide improvements in understanding and using data in policy and practice.

Administrative Use of Data

Administrative staff may need to analyze and use data in planning, evaluation, and system improvement efforts and to respond to numerous stakeholder groups. Staff from the Center can assist

States in developing their capacity to analyze data for administrative use.

AFCARS Toolkit

The AFCARS Toolkit, which is available on-line at www.nrccwdt.org or free of charge as a CD-ROM, provides links to key materials and documents related to the collection of quality adoption and foster care data that can be used to address policy development and program management issues at the State and Federal level.

AFCARS Assistance

The Center provides assistance around AFCARS, which can be tailored according to States' needs. This can entail a full Program Logic and/or Mapping Documentation Review or a more administrative level AFCARS Overview and Review of Federal Definitions and Policy Guidance.

Coordinating Peer Consultation

The Center can coordinate consultation among States with similar issues. This can take place through informal exchange of information or through a structured process involving on-site, facilitated meetings. More information about peer consultation can also be found on our website www.nrccwdt.org.

Supporting States in the CFSR Process

The Resource Center is able to help in a number of ways, including: preparation for and use of the State Data Profile; resolution of data sources, quality and interpretation related to outcome measures; evaluating enhancements required to information systems in the context of the PIP; and consultation on benchmarks and improvement measures during PIP development and implementation.

For More Information

Address: National Resource Center for Child Welfare Data and Technology
50 F Street, NW
6th Floor
Washington, DC 20001-2085

Phone: (877) 672-4829 (toll free)

Fax: (202) 737-3687

E-Mail: nrccwdt@cwla.org

Web site: www.nrccwdt.org

NATIONAL CHILD WELFARE RESOURCE CENTER FOR ADOPTION

Who We Are

The National Child Welfare Resource Center for Adoption works with States, Tribes, and agencies to increase States' capacity in adoption. We work to improve the effectiveness and quality of adoption and post-adoption services provided to children and their families.

How We Can Help

The Center is available to partner with States, Tribes, and other members of the Children's Bureau's Training and Technical Assistance Network to work with staff and stakeholders in all phases of their Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) process. We help to identify strengths, needs, and actions that can be taken to improve outcomes for children. Assistance includes:

Analyzing Adoption and Permanency Options

The Center will review CFSR Statewide Assessments, Final Reports, and Program Improvement Plans (PIPs). The Center will also provide feedback on how it might provide technical assistance, training, tools, and materials to help States and Tribes plan and implement changes in practice, programs, policies, and systems to ensure timely adoption or other permanent family connections for children and youth.

Exploring Systemic Factors

The Center will assist States and Tribes in exploring how all systemic factors effect timely permanency, especially adoption.

Increasing Cultural Competence

Children of color are disproportionately represented in the child welfare system and among those waiting to be adopted. Center staff can help States reach out to communities of color to increase adoptions of children from those communities. Using a community-based approach, the Center will help States design programs to build relationships in communities to better address the needs of children and families of color.

The Center also has experience helping States work to fully implement the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act and Interethnic Placement Act and achieve adoptions in the context of Tribal traditions and the Indian Child Welfare Act.

Promoting Stakeholder Involvement

The Center can help States and Tribes work more effectively with other teams and systems of service (child protective services, intake, foster care, mental health, schools, etc.) to achieve timely adoptions.

Training and Technical Assistance

The Center can provide training and technical assistance at any point in the CFSR process to enhance practice, knowledge, skills, and abilities and improve adoption program planning. Some areas of technical assistance include:

- Program planning to achieve timely adoption outcomes.
- Utilization of information systems for adoption program planning.
- Developing and sustaining adoption support and preservation services, including adoption assistance programs.
- Collaborative planning among child welfare teams to achieve timely adoptions.
- Working with other systems of service to facilitate adoption and adoption support and preservation.
- Preparing, assessing, and retaining foster, kin, and adoptive families.
- Preparing and assessing children and youth for adoption, including those with developmental disabilities.
- Making adoption an option for older children and youth.
- Finding and engaging fathers and their families in adoption planning.

Curricula are available on assessment and preparation of children and families for adoption, cultural competency in child welfare, and adoption support and preservation services.

For More Information

Address: Spaulding for Children
16250 Northland Drive
Suite 120
Southfield, MI 48075

Phone: (248) 443-0306

Fax: (248) 443-7099

E-Mail: nrc@nrcadoption.org

Web site: www.nrcadoption.org

Contact: Natalie Lyons, Director

NATIONAL CHILD WELFARE RESOURCE CENTER FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Who We Are

The National Child Welfare Resource Center for Youth Development (NCWRCYD) increases the capacity and resources of States and Tribes to help youth in care meet the goals of safety, permanence, and well-being. The Center can help States incorporate youth into all areas of programs and services, implement services that address legislative requirements, and prepare for Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) and Program Improvement Plan (PIP) development and implementation. The Center bases its technical assistance and training around four core principles: youth development, collaboration, cultural competence, and permanent connections.

How We Can Help

Center staff can provide States with the following assistance in their CFSRs:

Promoting Stakeholder Involvement

NCWRCYD has worked successfully with both States and Tribes to bring stakeholders together in an environment that promotes constructive dialogue. NCWRCYD can:

- Facilitate diverse groups for strategic planning, collaboration, and consensus building.
- Work with States to draw youth into all three stages of the CFSR in order to benefit from their unique contributions and perspectives.
- Work with States to engage Tribes as stakeholders.
- Facilitate planning sessions during development, implementation, and evaluation of the PIP.
- Evaluate Statewide Assessments, final CFSR reports, and PIPs with a dual focus on improving services for youth and highlighting opportunities to engage youth in planning and implementation.
- Work with States and Tribes to recognize barriers and identify solutions for successful inclusion of youth and families in case planning and services.

Technical Assistance and Training

The Center facilitates systemic change by providing technical assistance (TA) prior to and concurrent with training activities. TA sessions are designed to assist program and administrative staff with implementing and managing necessary change.

Technical assistance activities may include:

- Work groups and committees
- Strategic planning sessions (initial and ongoing)
- Action planning sessions

The NCWRCYD offers a variety of trainings for states, tribes and other providers that focus on both organizational and skill development. The Center can modify training to meet an organization's needs in any of the following areas:

- Positive Youth Development
- Youth/Adult Partnership Building
- Permanency Planning
- Cultural Diversity
- Collaboration
- Strength-Based Assessment and Case Planning
- Ethnographic Interviewing
- Conflict Resolution
- Family Group Decision Making
- Youth Leadership Development
- Life Skills Assessment and Transition Planning
- Life Skills Instruction Preparation
- Permanency Planning for Adolescents
- Permanency and Concurrent Planning

- Working with Native American Youth
- Preparing Youth for Transition
- Foster and Adoptive Parent Training
- Managing Aggressive Behavior
- Residential Child Care Programming
- Working with Runaway and Homeless Youth
- Web-based, State-specific fact sheets highlighting CFSR, PIP, and Chafee activities.
- Newsletters and publications containing best practices and current trends in youth work, published with collaboration from nationally recognized leaders in the field of child welfare.

Information Services

NCWRCYD regularly gathers, analyzes, and disseminates information on services and practices relevant to youth. NCWRCYD communicates with State Independent Living Coordinators and other professionals to stay current with trends, programs and policies. Resources include:

- A Web site providing the most current information on Federal, State, and Tribal policies and practices affecting youth and their families.

For More Information

Address: 4502 East 41st Street
 Building 4W
 Tulsa, OK 74135
 Phone: (918) 660-3700
 Fax: (918) 660-3737
 E-Mail: pcorreia@ou.edu
 Web site: <http://www.nrcys.ou.edu/nrcyd/>
 Contact: Peter R. Correia III, Director

THE COLLABORATION TO ADOPTUSKIDS

Who We Are

The Children's Bureau's **AdoptUsKids** initiative is designed to find and support foster and adoptive families for waiting children by providing new and enhanced recruitment tools and training and technical assistance (T/TA) to States and Tribes.

How We Can Help

In collaboration with the ACF Regional Offices and the Children's Bureau, **AdoptUsKids** provides T/TA to help States and Tribes achieve their Title IV-B Child and Family Service Plan requirements and Title IV-E Child and Family Service Review (CFSR) targets on issues that pertain to the development and implementation of quality recruitment and retention services for foster and adoptive families.

Training and Technical Assistance Service Goals

- Help States and Tribes develop a pool of waiting families that reflect the ethnic and racial diversity of children for whom foster and adoptive homes are needed.
- Increase the effective use of cross-jurisdictional resources to facilitate timely adoptive or permanent placements for waiting children.
- Promote and enhance the role of resource parents in recruitment and planning.
- Assist States to enhance worker capacity, satisfaction and validation of their work in recruitment and retention.
- Assist States and Tribes in insuring their recruitment and response processes are driven by promising practices & achieve desired outcomes.

Supporting the CFSR Process

- Providing individualized assessments of recruitment and retention needs.
- Exploring and disseminating information about established, effective recruitment activities and initiatives.

- Offering access to a team of national experts for consultation and training on recruitment and retention issues.
- Working strategically with child welfare agencies and Tribes to tailor T/TA services in the area of recruitment and retention.
- Producing definitive booklets for caseworkers and prospective families on best practices in recruitment/retention of families, writing child profiles and matching waiting children with families.

Providing Training/Consultation to Support Agencies

- Current areas of specific training expertise include:
 - Recruiting foster and adoptive families (general, targeted, child specific and child-centered)
 - Placing children across interjurisdictional boundaries
 - Utilization of the national online photolisting for waiting children (www.adoptuskids.org)
 - Best practice in writing child profiles
 - Developing and sustaining community-based partnerships
 - Strategic planning and consultation related to the development of Title IV-B recruitment plans
 - Responding effectively and supportively to inquiring families

Maintaining a Web Site and Photolisting

The partnership also maintains the **AdoptUsKids** Web site (www.adoptuskids.org). The Web site is the first Federal online photolisting service for children waiting to be adopted from foster care.

Additional Components of AdoptUSKids

- Supporting critical research on barriers to adoption.
- Identifying family factors that support long-term success in special needs adoption.
- Establishing joint trainings and national meetings with child welfare administrators, adoption and foster care managers and other child welfare professionals from the public and private sectors.
- Developing and supporting a network of adoptive parent organizations.
- Implementing a national campaign to recruit new adoptive and foster families for waiting children.
- Implementing Recruitment Response Teams to assist States in responding to national, State, and local recruitment campaigns and to support/nurture interested families.

For More Information

Address: 8015 Corporate Drive, Suite C
Baltimore, MD 21236

Phone: (888) 200-4005 or (410) 933-5700

Fax: (410) 933-5716

E-Mail: info@adoptuskids.org

Web site: www.adoptuskids.org

Contact: Barbara Holtan, Project Director
Melody Roe, Director—The Adoption
Exchange Education Center & T/TA for
AdoptUSKids (303-755-4756 x241)

NATIONAL CENTER ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND CHILD WELFARE

Who We Are

The National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare (NCSACW) is a service of the Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment and the Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau's Office on Child Abuse and Neglect.

How We Can Help

NCSACW works to develop knowledge and provide technical assistance (TA) to Federal, State and local agencies and Tribes to improve outcomes for families with substance use disorders in the child welfare and family court systems.

Technical Assistance

NCSACW helps develop cross-system partnerships and practice changes to address the issues of substance use disorders among families in the child welfare system. All requests for TA are coordinated with CSAT and ACF. A limited amount of on-site TA is provided at no charge based on availability and application process. Areas of TA include:

- Connecting individuals with resources, including publications, journal articles, research, and statistics.
- Consulting expertise on screening and assessment for family engagement, retention and recovery.
- Presenting at conferences
- Facilitating clinical and policy workgroups of substance abuse and child welfare staff and judicial officers.
- Assisting in the development of interagency protocols and strategic plans.
- Assisting States in preparing for their Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSRs) and developing their Program Improvement Plans (PIPs).
- Answering questions and making referrals to other experts in the field.

- In-depth TA is provided to a limited number of sites selected through a solicitation process.

Information Gathering and Dissemination

NCSACW staff maintain an extensive library of resources on the intersection of alcohol and other drug, child welfare/Tribal child welfare, and family court systems.

Web-Based Services and Tutorials

A NCSACW website, www.ncsacw.samhsa.gov, is available to provide a wide range of on-line resources. In addition, NCSACW is developing a series of four online tutorials:

- Understanding Child Welfare and the Dependency Court: A Guide for Substance Abuse Treatment Professionals. (Available Now)
- Understanding Substance Abuse Treatment and Recovery: A Guide for Child Welfare Workers. (Available Now).
- Understanding Substance Abuse and Child Welfare Issues: A Guide for Judicial Officers. (Anticipated Summer 2005)
- Understanding Substance Abuse and Child Welfare Issues: A Guide for Legislators. (Anticipated Spring 2006)

Biennial Conference

NCSACW conducts a biennial national conference. The second National Conference on Substance Abuse, Child Welfare and the Dependency Courts will be held in October 2006.

For More Information

Address: 4940 Irvine Boulevard
Suite 202
Irvine, CA 92620

Phone: (714) 505-3525

Fax: (714) 505-3626

E-Mail: ncsacw@samhsa.gov

Web site: www.ncsacw.samhsa.gov

Contact: Nancy K. Young, Director
Lani Daly, TA Coordinator

NATIONAL ABANDONED INFANTS ASSISTANCE RESOURCE CENTER

Who We Are

The National Abandoned Infants Assistance (AIA) Resource Center's mission is to enhance the quality of social and health services delivered to abandoned children and those at risk of abandonment due to the presence of drugs and/or HIV in the family. The Center seeks to achieve these ends by providing training, information, and resources to service providers who assist these children and their families.

How We Can Help

The Resource Center provides training and information to professionals on a wide range of issues, particularly as they relate to the safety, well-being, and permanence of children.

Training

The Center sponsors an annual telephone seminar series on child welfare issues. These are structured, interactive phone conferences with guest presenters. Recent seminars include:

- Working with Women Survivors of Trauma
- Issues for Relative Care Providers
- Mental Health Needs of HIV-Infected Children and Adolescents
- Treatment and Program Development for Women with Multiple Disorders

Conferences

The Resource Center hosts annual national conferences. Recent topics include:

- Spirituality: A Powerful Force in Women's Recovery (2003)
- Raising Kin: The Psychosocial Well-being of Substance-affected Children in Relative Care (2004)

Online Database of Trainers

The Center provides an online database of trainers who specialize in topics such as:

- Child abuse and neglect
- Substance abuse and treatment

- Women and addiction
- HIV-affected families and children

Detailed information is available for each trainer (e.g., bios, vitae, contact information, and areas of expertise).

Online Database of Conferences

The Center provides an online database of national child welfare conferences.

Materials Development

The Resource Center disseminates a biannual theme-based newsletter, fact sheets, videos, and directories. Examples include:

Newsletter—*The Source*:

- Case Management for Substance Abusing Parents and Their Children
- Building Upon the Unique Strengths of Peer Workers

Fact Sheets:

- Women and Children with HIV/AIDS
- Recreational Programs for HIV-affected Children and Families
- Boarder Babies, Abandoned Infants, and Discarded Infants

Reports:

- Discarded Infants and Neonaticide: A Review of the Literature
- Focusing on the Needs of Youth in Kinship Care

Research and Resource Development

The Center examines emerging issues and explores practice and policy implications by conducting research and consulting with technical expert groups. Results are released in the form of monographs. Topics include:

- Establishing Permanent Futures for Children: Recommendations for Improving Future Care and Custody Planning

- AIA Best Practices: Lessons Learned from a Decade of Service to Children and Families Affected by HIV and Substance Abuse
- Expediting Permanency for Abandoned Infants
- Partners' Influence on Women's Addiction and Recovery

Individualized Information Searches

The Center provides links to literature, statistics, and relevant referrals on a broad variety of topics related to its mission.

For More Information

Address: University of California, Berkeley
School of Social Welfare
1950 Addison Street, Suite 104 # 7402
Berkeley, CA 94720-7402

Phone: (510) 643-8390

Fax: (510) 643-7019

E-Mail: aia@berkeley.edu

Web site: <http://aia.berkeley.edu>

Contact: Jeanne Pietrzak, Director

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR COMMUNITY-BASED CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAMS (FRIENDS)

Who We Are

The National Resource Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Programs (FRIENDS) is a service of the Children's Bureau, Office on Child Abuse and Neglect. FRIENDS (Family Resource, Information, Education and Network Development Services) provides technical assistance to Federal grantee agencies implementing the Community-Based Grants for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, under the Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2003.

The purpose of FRIENDS' work is to build the capacity of States and communities to prevent child abuse and neglect and strengthen and support families.

How We Can Help

FRIENDS' current areas of expertise that may be of use to States in the course of their Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) process include:

- Enhancing a State's array of services by promoting interagency collaboration and supporting the establishment of child abuse prevention and family support programs and networks.
- Promoting program best practices including inclusion of fathers, strengthening families and family relationships, working with diverse populations, promoting parent involvement and leadership, respite care, and other community-based and strengths-based practices.
- Promoting a continuum of participatory evaluation strategies including self-assessment, peer review, and outcome accountability.
- Addressing issues related to prevention systems.
- Assisting with message development.

Onsite and Telephone Technical Assistance

As they strive to improve child welfare systems, States are using family support strategies to improve family functioning and keep families

from entering the child welfare system in the first place. FRIENDS offers knowledge and expertise in the implementation of family support strategies in a variety of settings and for many purposes. FRIENDS staff can provide State lead agencies with assistance in the following areas as they implement their Program Improvement Plans:

- Child and family well-being and family support.
- Enhancing family capacity.
- Creating models of parent involvement and shared leadership.
- Vision, mission, and strategic planning of long-term systemic reform with particular emphasis on prevention strategies.
- Overview of the CFSR process.
- Community assessment.
- Consensus building.
- Engaging families in case planning.
- Family self-advocacy skills.
- Maximizing funding.
- Building respectful relationships with colleagues and families.

Promoting Stakeholder Involvement and Investment in the Public Child Welfare System

Community and consumer consultation is necessary to assess the needs, capacities, gaps, and service development approaches needed within diverse communities. FRIENDS has developed successful strategies and tools to work with parents and can assist States in identifying successful practices for community consultation. From the CFSR Statewide Assessment, to the Onsite Review and the ensuing Program Improvement Plan, FRIENDS can assist States in utilizing their CBCAP statewide child abuse prevention networks, comprised of service providers, parents, advocacy groups, and consumers of services, to carry out ongoing consultation with stakeholders of the child welfare system at all stages of the CFSR process.

For More Information

Address: 800 Eastowne Drive, Suite 105
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Phone: (919) 490-5577 x 222

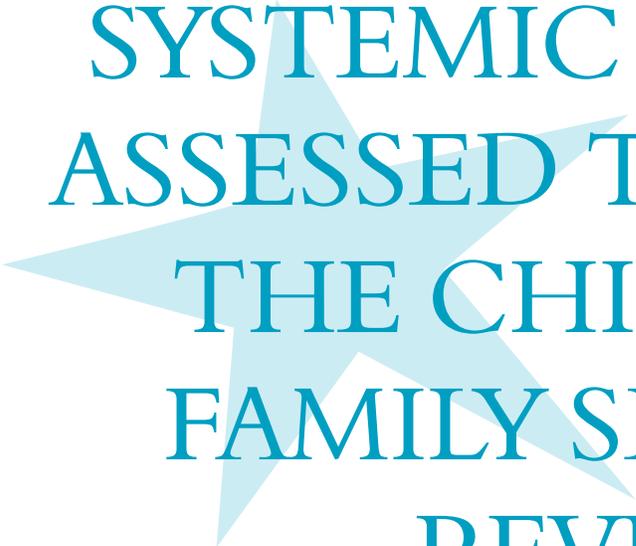
Fax: (919) 490-4905

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Web site: www.friendsnrc.org

Contact: Linda Baker, Program Director
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Appendix E



OUTCOMES AND
SYSTEMIC FACTORS
ASSESSED THROUGH
THE CHILD AND
FAMILY SERVICES
REVIEW

CHILD AND FAMILY OUTCOMES

Safety Outcome 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.

Safety Outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.

Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.

Permanency Outcome 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.

Child and Family Well-being Outcome 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.

Child and Family Well-being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.

Child and Family Well-being Outcome 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.

SYSTEMIC FACTORS

Statewide Information System

Case Review System

Quality Assurance System

Training (for child welfare agency staff and foster and adoptive parents)

Service Array

Agency Responsiveness to the Community

Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention

Appendix F



INFORMATION
MEMORANDUM:
NATIONAL
STANDARDS FOR THE
CHILD AND FAMILY
SERVICES REVIEW

<h1>ACF</h1> <p>Administration for Children and Families</p>	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES Administration on Children, Youth and Families	
	1. Log No: ACYF-CB-IM-01-07	2. Issuance Date: August 16, 2001
	3. Originating Office: Children's Bureau	
	4. Key Words: National Standards, Program Improvement Plans, Child and Family Services (CFS) Reviews	

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

TO: State and Territorial Agencies Administering or Supervising the Administration of Titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act, ACF Regional Administrators and Hub Directors

SUBJECT: Updated National Standards for the Child and Family Service Reviews and Guidance on Program Improvement Plans

LEGAL AND RELATED REFERENCES: Titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act, the Social Security Act Amendments of 1994 (Public Law 103-432), 45 CFR 1355.34(a) and (b), 45 CFR 1355.35(a) and (e), 45 CFR 1355.36(d), ACYF-CB-IM-00-11, and ACYF-CB-IM-01-01

PURPOSE: The purposes of this information memorandum (IM) are: (1) to provide updated information on the national standards that are used to determine, in part, whether or not States are operating in substantial conformity with State plan requirements, and; (2) to provide guidance for use by States and Regional Offices in negotiating the amount of improvement necessary toward meeting the national standards through an approved program improvement plan (PIP).

INFORMATION:

Background

In accordance with 45 CFR 1355.34(a) and (b), a State must, in part, meet national standards for certain statewide data indicators and achieve certain outcomes for children and families to be determined in substantial conformity in a child and family services review. In ACYF-CB-IM-00-11¹ we transmitted national standards for the six statewide data indicators used, in part, to determine if States are operating in substantial conformity with titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act (the Act). We have updated the national standards because of corrected State data that form the basis for the standards and a number of improved procedural measures that we describe below.

¹ ACYF-CB-IM-00-11 was later amended by ACYF-CB-IM-01-01 due to a typographical error in describing our methodology for calculating the national standard for the statewide data indicator, "foster care re-entries." We are rescinding both ACYF-CB-IM-00-11 and ACYF-CB-IM-01-01 due to the revisions in the national standards and are placing a background paper on the Children's Bureau website that includes relevant information from the two Information Memoranda noted above.

In addition, if a State is determined not to be in substantial conformity because the State's data did not meet the national standards, the State is required to develop a PIP (45 CFR 1355.35(a)) that sets forth the amount of progress the State will make toward meeting the national standards for the statewide data indicator(s). In addition to updating the national standards, we are providing guidance for use by States and Regional Offices in determining the amount of improvement that States must make toward meeting the standards through the implementation of a PIP. We note that a PIP is required of States determined not to be in substantial conformity on any of the outcomes and systemic factors examined as a part of the child and family services reviews. A State may be determined not to be in substantial conformity for reasons other than failure to meet the national standards, such as the failure of a sufficient number of cases reviewed onsite to be rated as substantially achieved. This Information Memorandum addresses the extent of improvement that will be required of States through a PIP due to determinations that States are not operating in substantial conformity based in whole or in part on the failure of the State to meet the national standards, and does not address States' failure to achieve substantial conformity due to other reasons.

Updated National Standards

The updated national standards reflect changes in four areas:

- The use of corrected State data submitted to AFCARS and NCANDS for the time periods used to calculate the standards;
- The application of new rules that disregard skewed data points in calculating the national standards;
- The inclusion of a sampling error associated with each national standard; and
- The rounding of the national standards to one decimal point.

We discuss each of these changes below.

Corrected State data. In preparing for the CFS reviews, a number of States examined their data submissions to AFCARS and NCANDS in previous years and re-submitted their data for purposes of the CFS reviews. We encouraged States to analyze their data critically so that the reviews would reflect the most accurate picture available of outcomes for children and families. Therefore, we have incorporated the corrected data into the national standards.

New rules for disregarding extreme data points. When recalculating the national standards, we applied new rules that disregarded extreme data points in individual States' data that were used to calculate the national standards. We excluded State data indicators that were 0% and 100% from the data points used to determine the standards, believing that such extreme values were unlikely to be accurate and would skew the standards in one direction or another.

Inclusion of sampling error in the standards. In calculating the new national standards, we included the sampling error associated with each data indicator as part of the actual standard. Even with the use of more accurate data to calculate the national standards, we realize that there is a certain range within which a State's data can be considered to meet the standard statistically. We chose to incorporate the sampling error into the standards because we do not believe it is appropriate to subject a State to a potential penalty if the State is within a statistically acceptable range of the national standard.

Rounding of the national standards. When we updated the national standards to incorporate sampling errors, we believed that the full benefits to the States of including the sampling error in the standard would be best applied by rounding the standards using decimal points. We chose to round the standards to only one decimal point because we do not believe it is appropriate to attempt to measure State performance to the degree of precision implied by two

decimal places. The exception to this rounding procedure is the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care and has been rounded to two decimal points due to the small number of such incidents reported by States.

Determining a State’s Achievement of the National Standard

In determining whether or not a State meets the national standard for a particular statewide data indicator, we will compare the State’s data used in its CFS review to the updated national standards below. We will round the State’s data for individual indicators using the same rationale described above for rounding the national standards, i.e., rounding to one decimal point for each of the six indicators except the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care, which will be rounded to two decimal points. As shown in the chart below, each of the updated national standards works to the advantage of the States in meeting the standards. For States that have already undergone CFS reviews in FY 2001, we will apply the updated national standards retroactively to decisions regarding substantial conformity.

Our methodology for calculating the updated national standards and for determining whether a State’s data meet the national standards are indicated in the chart below:

Data Indicator	75th Percentile	Sampling Error	Updated National Standard*	Old National Standard (For comparison only)	Method of Determining if State Meets National Standard
Recurrence of maltreatment	5.15%	0.90%	6.1%	5%	A State will be determined to meet the national standard if its data on this indicator are equal to, or less than, the updated national standard.
Data Indicator	75th Percentile	Sampling Error	Updated National Standard*	Old National Standard (For comparison only)	Method of Determining if State Meets National Standard
Incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care	0.4247%	0.1439%	0.57%	0.4%	A State will be determined to meet the national standard if its data on this indicator are equal to, or less than, the updated national standard .
Foster care re-entries	7.23%	1.35%	8.6%	6%	A State will be determined to meet the national standard if its data on this indicator are equal to, or less than, the updated national standard.
Stability of foster care placements	88.58%	1.90%	86.7%	89%	A State will be determined to meet the national standard if its data on this indicator are equal to, or greater than, the updated national standard.
Length of time to achieve reunification	78.62%	2.42%	76.2%	78%	A State will be determined to meet the national standard if its data on this indicator are equal to, or greater than, the updated national standard.
Length of time to achieve adoption	34.89%	2.90%	32.0%	36%	A State will be determined to meet the national standard if its data on this indicator are equal to, or greater than, the updated national standard.

*Rounded as noted above

Determining a State’s Improvement with Regard to the National Standards

In situations where a State does not meet a national standard, the regulations require that the PIP, which is jointly developed by the Regional Office and the State, set forth the amount of progress the statewide data will make toward meeting the national standards. (45 CFR 1355.35(a)(1)(i),(iv)). The PIP must also specify a period in which ACF can measure a State’s progress in achieving the negotiated improvement

(45 CFR 1355.5(e)(1)). We will consider the sampling error for each indicator as a minimum percentage of improvement for a State to make over the course of a PIP. For example, if a State's recurrence of child maltreatment is 10% at the time of the review, at a minimum we would expect the State to improve by at least .90% on this indicator as part of an approved PIP, thus reducing the incidence of recurrent maltreatment to 9.1%, in order to consider that improvement has been made. We believe that using the sampling error as a framework is appropriate because where a State's improvement exceeds the sampling error, we can conclude that a statistically significant improvement has been made.²

In addition to the sampling error, the Regional Office may also consider other programmatic factors in negotiating the amount of improvement States are required to make in a PIP. Such programmatic factors may include the extent to which a State's data fall below or exceed the national standard, the factors affecting the State's lack of substantial conformity, the difficulty and time involved in program improvement efforts in achieving overall improvement, whether the area needing improvement is an egregious area affecting child safety, and the amount of performance improvement the State may have already achieved subsequent to generating the original data profiles used in the reviews.

Evaluating a State's Improvement in Meeting the National Standards

To determine the amount of progress a State has made toward meeting the national standard, we will compute the difference between the State's data as indicated in the original data profile and the subsequent period specified in the PIP. For example, if a State fails to meet a national standard based on data from Federal fiscal year 1999, and the PIP includes the negotiated provision that we use data from Federal fiscal year 2003 to gauge the State's progress toward meeting the national standard, we will compute the difference between the data from those two time periods.

If the difference indicates a level of improvement that meets or exceeds the approved amount of improvement specified in the PIP, we will determine that the State has successfully completed that portion of the PIP and the associated penalties will be rescinded (section 1355.36(d)). If the State does not meet or exceed the approved amount of improvement specified in the PIP, the associated penalties will be withheld as specified in 45 CFR 1355.36. States that do not achieve the updated national standard in subsequent reviews will again be determined out of substantial conformity and be required to establish new benchmarks of improvement to be made toward attainment of the national standard, using the same procedures described in this Information Memorandum³ and subject to the penalty provisions in 45 CFR 1355.36.

INQUIRIES TO: ACF Regional Offices

James A. Harrell
Acting Commissioner
Administration on Children, Youth and Families

² In situations where the amount of a State's improvement on an indicator exceeds the sampling error, we can determine that improvement has occurred in a statistical sense, since exceeding the sampling error will indicate a statistically significant difference (improvement) between the State's performance on the period under review and the subsequent evaluation period specified in the PIP.

³ More information on developing program improvement plans can be found in chapter 7 of the CFS review procedures manual.

Appendix G

HIGHLIGHTS
OF *CHILD*
MALTREATMENT 2003



SUMMARY

During fiscal year 2003, an estimated 2.9 million referrals alleging child abuse or neglect were accepted by State and local child protective services (CPS) agencies for investigation or assessment. Approximately, 906,000 children were determined by CPS agencies to be victims of child abuse or neglect.

OVERVIEW

What is the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)?

NCANDS is a federally-sponsored effort that collects and analyzes annual data on child abuse and neglect submitted voluntarily by the States and the District of Columbia. The first report from NCANDS was based on data for 1990; the report on data for 2003 is the 14th annual report.

The 1988 amendments to the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) directed the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to establish a national data collection and analysis program. The Children's Bureau in the Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, collects and analyzes the data from the States.

How are the data used?

Data from the States are used for the annual report, Child Maltreatment. In addition, data from the States are used systematically to measure the impact and effectiveness of CPS through performance outcome measures.

What data are collected?

NCANDS collects case-level data on all children who received an investigation or assessment by a CPS agency. States that are unable to provide case-level data submit aggregated counts of key indicators.

Case-level data include information about:

- The characteristics of the report of abuse or neglect that are made to CPS agencies
- The characteristics of the alleged child abuse or neglect victims
- The disposition (or finding)
- The alleged maltreatments
- The risk factors of the child and the caregivers
- The services that are provided
- The characteristics of the perpetrators.

VICTIMS

An estimated 906,000 children were determined to be victims of child abuse or neglect during 2003. The rate of victimization per 1,000 children in the national population dropped from 13.4 children per 1,000 children in 1990 to 12.4 children in 2003.

What types of maltreatment were found?

More than 60 percent of child victims were neglected by their parents or other caregivers. Approximately 20 percent were physically abused, 10 percent were sexually abused, and 5 percent were emotionally maltreated. In addition, 17 percent were associated with "other" types of maltreatment, based on specific State laws and policies. A child could be a victim of more than one type of maltreatment.

What were the characteristics of victims?

Children in the age group ages birth to 3 years had the highest rates of victimization at 16.4 per 1,000 children of this age in the population. Girls were slightly more likely than boys to be victims.

Pacific Islander children, American Indian/Alaska Native and African American children had the highest rates of victimization when compared to their national population. The rate of White victims of child abuse or neglect was 11.0 per 1,000 White children in the population; the rate for Pacific Islanders was 21.4 per 1,000 children; for American Indians or Alaskan Natives, the rate was 21.3 per 1,000 children; and for African American children, the rate was 20.4 per 1,000 children.

REPORTS

Approximately two-thirds of the referrals received during 2003 were accepted for investigation or assessment. One-third of referrals were not accepted.

Who made the reports?

More than one-half of all reports that alleged child abuse or neglect were made by such professionals as educators, law enforcement and legal personnel, social services personnel, medical personnel, mental health personnel, child daycare providers, and foster care providers. Educators made 16.3 percent of all reports, while law enforcement and legal personnel made 16.0 percent, and social services personnel made 11.6 percent. Friends, neighbors, and relatives submitted approximately 43.2 percent of the reports.

What were the results of the investigations and assessments?

After conducting interviews with family members, the alleged child victim, and sometimes other people familiar with the family, the CPS agency makes a determination concerning whether the child is a victim of abuse or neglect, or is at risk of abuse or neglect. This determination often is called a disposition.

Approximately 30 percent of the reports included at least one child who was found to be a victim of abuse or neglect. Sixty-one percent of the reports were found to be unsubstantiated (including intentionally false); the remaining reports were closed for additional reasons.

FATALITIES

Child fatalities are the most tragic consequence of maltreatment. In 2003, an estimated 1,500 children died due to child abuse or neglect.

What were the characteristics of these children?

More than three-quarters of the children who died due to child abuse or neglect were younger than 4 years old, 10 percent were 4–7 years old, 5 percent were 8–11 years old, and 6 percent were 12–17 years old.

The overall rate of child fatalities was 2 deaths per 100,000 children in the population. More than one-third of child fatalities were attributed to neglect. Physical abuse also was a major contributor to child fatalities. Infant boys (younger than 1 year old) had the highest rate of fatalities, nearly 18 deaths per 100,000 boys of the same age in the national population. Infant girls had a rate of 14 deaths per 100,000 girls of the same age.

PERPETRATORS

Approximately 80 percent of perpetrators were parents. Other relatives accounted for 6 percent of the perpetrators, and unmarried partners of parents and “other” each accounted for 4 percent of perpetrators. The remaining perpetrator relationship types accounted for less than 1 percent of the perpetrators.

What were the characteristics of perpetrators?

Female perpetrators, who were mostly the mothers of the children, were typically younger than male perpetrators, who were mostly the fathers of the children. Women also comprised a larger percentage of all perpetrators than men (58 percent of perpetrators were women compared to 42 percent who were men).

SERVICES

CPS agencies provide services to some families and their children during, and as a result of, an investigation or assessment.

Who received services?

Approximately 57 percent of victims and 25 percent of non-victims received services as a result of an investigation or assessment. Additional analyses indicated that children who were prior victims of maltreatment were approximately 52 percent more likely to receive services than first-time victims. Additionally, children with multiple types of maltreatment were almost 73 percent more likely to receive services than children who were physically abused.

What services were provided?

Services included both in-home and foster care services. Approximately 15 percent of child victims were removed from their homes and placed in foster care. About 3 percent of non-victims also experienced a removal—usually a short-term placement that occurred during the course of investigating the maltreatment report.

Appendix H



ADOPTION AND
FOSTER CARE
ANALYSIS AND
REPORTING SYSTEM
(AFCARS)
REPORT: FY 2003

The AFCARS Report

Interim FY 2003 Estimates as of June 2006 (10)

How many children were in foster care on September 30, 2003? 520,000

SOURCE: Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) data submitted for the FY 2003, 10/1/02 through 9/30/03.

NOTES: Data from both the regular and revised submissions received by June 2006 are included in the information below. Missing data are not used in the calculation of percentages.

What were the ages of the children in foster care?

Mean Years		10.2
Median Years		10.9
Less than 1 Year	5%	25,169
1 Year	6%	29,717
2 Years	5%	27,979
3 Years	5%	25,426
4 Years	5%	23,911
5 Years	4%	22,360
6 Years	4%	21,118
7 Years	4%	21,012
8 Years	4%	21,046
9 Years	4%	21,711
10 Years	4%	23,346
11 Years	5%	24,705
12 Years	5%	26,964
13 Years	6%	30,029
14 Years	7%	34,152
15 Years	7%	38,540
16 Years	8%	40,696
17 Years	7%	37,749
18 Years	3%	14,767
19 Years	1%	5,848
20 Years	1%	3,755

What were the lengths of stay in foster care?

Mean Months		31.2
Median Months		17.6
Less than 1 Month	4%	23,381
1 to 5 Months	18%	93,495
6 to 11 Months	16%	83,742
12 to 17 Months	12%	63,383
18 to 23 Months	9%	45,686
24 to 29 Months	7%	35,691
30 to 35 Months	5%	26,856
3 to 4 Years	12%	64,417
5 Years or More	16%	83,349

What were the placement settings of children in foster care?

Pre-Adoptive Home	5%	24,806
Foster Family Home (Relative)	23%	121,511
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	46%	240,916
Group Home	9%	45,828
Institution	10%	51,549
Supervised Independent Living	1%	5,525
Runaway	2%	10,657
Trial Home Visit	4%	19,206

Children in Foster Care on September 30, 2003 (continued)

What were the case goals of the children in foster care?

Reunify with Parent(s) or Principal Caretaker(s)	48%	249,549
Live with Other Relative(s)	5%	24,450
Adoption	20%	105,171
Long Term Foster Care	8%	44,006
Emancipation	6%	31,793
Guardianship	3%	15,561
Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	10%	49,469

What was the race/ethnicity of the children in foster care?

AI/AN-Non Hispanic	2%	10,153
Asian-Non Hispanic	1%	3,261
Black -Non Hispanic	35%	183,901
Hawaiian/ PI-Non Hispanic	0%	1,524
Hispanic	17%	90,846
White-Non Hispanic	39%	202,992
Unknown/Unable to Determine	3%	13,010
Two or More-Non Hispanic	3%	14,312

NOTE: Using U.S. Bureau of the Census standards, children of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Beginning in FY 2000, children could be identified with more than one race designation

What was the gender of the children in foster care?

Male	53%	273,138
Female	47%	246,862

How many children entered foster care during FY 2003? 296,000

What were the ages of the children who entered care during FY 2003?

Mean Years		8.4
Median Years		8.3
Less than 1 Year	14%	41,539
1 Year	6%	18,678
2 Years	6%	17,059
3 Years	5%	15,211
4 Years	5%	14,141
5 Years	4%	13,041
6 Years	4%	12,415
7 Years	4%	11,918
8 Years	4%	11,439
9 Years	4%	11,449
10 Years	4%	11,496
11 Years	4%	12,239
12 Years	5%	13,859
13 Years	6%	16,869
14 Years	7%	20,113
15 Years	8%	22,209
16 Years	7%	19,739
17 Years	4%	11,872
18 Years	0%	573
19 Years	0%	116
20 Years	0%	25

What was the race/ethnicity of the children who entered care during FY 2003?

AI/AN-Non Hispanic	2%	6,717
Asian-Non Hispanic	1%	2,631
Black -Non Hispanic	27%	80,063
Hawaiian/ PI-Non Hispanic	0%	1,093
Hispanic	17%	51,247
White-Non Hispanic	46%	137,471
Unknown/Unable to Determine	3%	7,749
Two or More-Non Hispanic	3%	9,029

NOTE: Using U.S. Bureau of the Census standards, children of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Beginning in FY 2000, children could be identified with more than one race designation.

How many children exited foster care during FY 2003? 282,000

What were the ages of the children who exited care during FY 2003?

Mean Years	10.0
Median Years	10.0
Less than 1 Year	4% 12,660
1 Year	6% 17,269
2 Years	6% 17,761
3 Years	6% 16,339
4 Years	5% 15,002
5 Years	5% 13,682
6 Years	4% 12,668
7 Years	4% 12,038
8 Years	4% 11,905
9 Years	4% 11,781
10 Years	4% 11,417
11 Years	4% 11,540
12 Years	4% 11,838
13 Years	4% 12,560
14 Years	5% 14,458
15 Years	6% 16,713
16 Years	6% 17,675
17 Years	8% 23,530
18 Years	5% 14,919
19 Years	1% 3,512
20 Years	1% 2,732

What were the outcomes for the children exiting foster care during FY 2003?

Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	55%	155,499
Living with Other Relative(s)	11%	31,572
Adoption	18%	50,355
Emancipation	8%	22,432
Guardianship	4%	10,959
Transfer to Another Agency	2%	6,439
Runaway	1%	4,158
Death of Child	0%	586

NOTE: Deaths are attributable to a variety of causes including medical conditions, accidents and homicide.

What were the lengths of stay of the children who exited foster care during FY 2003?

Mean Months	21.7
Median Months	11.9
Less than 1 Month	18% 51,619
1 to 5 Months	16% 45,811
6 to 11 Months	16% 45,371
12 to 17 Months	12% 33,985
18 to 23 Months	8% 23,440
24 to 29 Months	6% 16,872
30 to 35 Months	5% 12,719
3 to 4 Years	10% 27,973
5 Years or More	9% 24,209

What was the race/ethnicity of the children who exited care during FY 2003?

AI/AN-Non Hispanic	2%	5,733
Asian-Non Hispanic	1%	2,633
Black -Non Hispanic	29%	82,839
Hawaiian/ PI-Non Hispanic	0%	972
Hispanic	16%	46,123
White-Non Hispanic	45%	128,256
Unknown/Unable to Determine	3%	7,348
Two or More-Non Hispanic	3%	8,097

NOTE: Using U.S. Bureau of the Census standards, children of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Beginning in FY 2000, children could be identified with more than one race designation.

How many children were waiting to be adopted on September 30, 2003? 120,000

NOTES: Waiting children are identified as children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. Children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the estimate.

What is the gender distribution of the waiting children?

Male	53%	63,811
Female	47%	56,189

How old were the waiting children when they were removed from their parents or caretakers?

Mean Years	5.0
Median Years	4.4
Less than 1 Year	24% 28,568
1 Year	8% 10,018
2 Years	8% 9,113
3 Years	7% 8,523
4 Years	7% 8,146
5 Years	7% 8,132
6 Years	7% 8,067
7 Years	6% 7,672
8 Years	6% 6,982
9 Years	5% 6,375
10 Years	5% 5,497
11 Years	4% 4,349
12 Years	3% 3,336
13 Years	2% 2,418
14 Years	1% 1,530
15 Years	1% 797
16 Years	0% 362
17 Years	0% 101
18 Years	0% 10
19 Years	0% 3
20 Years	0% 0

How many months have the waiting children been in continuous foster care?

Mean Months	44.5
Median Months	34.0
Less than 1 Month	0% 446
1 through 5 Months	3% 4,016
6 through 11 Months	7% 8,349
12 through 17 Months	11% 13,065
18 through 23 Months	11% 13,623
24 through 29 Months	11% 13,029
30 through 35 Months	9% 10,587
36 through 59 Months	23% 27,125
60 or more Months	25% 29,760

What is the racial/ethnic distribution of the waiting children?

AI/AN-Non Hispanic	2%	2,204
Asian-Non Hispanic	0%	501
Black -Non Hispanic	40%	48,305
Hawaiian/ PI-Non Hispanic	0%	346
Hispanic	14%	16,307
White-Non Hispanic	37%	44,346
Unknown/Unable to Determine	4%	4,218
Two or More-Non Hispanic	3%	3,773

NOTE: Using U.S. Bureau of the Census standards, children of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Beginning in FY 2000, children could be identified with more than one race designation.

Where were the waiting children living on September 30, 2003?

Pre-Adoptive Home	17%	19,938
Foster Family Home (Relative)	16%	19,541
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	55%	65,629
Group Home	4%	5,194
Institution	7%	8,376
Supervised Independent Living	0%	186
Runaway	1%	693
Trial Home Visit	0%	444

How old were the waiting children on September 30, 2003?

Mean Years	8.7	
Median Years	8.8	
Less than 1 Year	3%	3,826
1 Year	6%	7,731
2 Years	7%	8,405
3 Years	6%	7,767
4 Years	6%	7,320
5 Years	6%	6,990
6 Years	5%	6,582
7 Years	5%	6,382
8 Years	5%	6,418
9 Years	6%	6,860
10 Years	6%	7,172
11 Years	6%	7,512
12 Years	6%	7,549
13 Years	6%	7,317
14 Years	6%	6,981
15 Years	5%	6,456
16 Years	4%	4,534
17 Years	3%	3,031
18 Years	1%	856
19 Years	0%	220
20 Years	0%	93

How many children in foster care had their parental rights terminated for all living parents? 67,000

As of September 30, 2003, how many months had elapsed since the parental rights of these foster children were terminated?

Mean Months	26.8
Median Months	16.3

How many children were adopted with public agency involvement in FY 2003? 50,000

SOURCE: Adoptions can be reported to the AFCARS adoption database at any time after the adoption has been finalized. This report includes adoptions finalized in FY 2003 reported in regular and revised submissions by June 1, 2006.

NOTES: The number of adoptions reported here do not equal the number of adoption discharges reported under foster care exits because the adoptions reported here include adoptions of some children who were not in foster care but received other support from the public agency. In addition, states have historically underreported adoption discharges. In contrast, states tend to more accurately report the adoptions to the AFCARS adoption database because those are the adoptions used to calculate adoption incentive awards. Missing data are not used in the calculation of the percentages.

What is the gender distribution of the children adopted from the public foster care system?

Male	50%	25,118
Female	50%	24,882

What percentage of the children adopted receive an adoption subsidy?

Yes	87%	43,703
No	13%	6,297

How old were the children when they were adopted from the public foster care system?

Mean Years	7.0	
Median Years	6.1	
Less than 1 Year	2%	932
1 Year	9%	4,482
2 Years	11%	5,562
3 Years	10%	5,126
4 Years	9%	4,505
5 Years	8%	3,912
6 Years	7%	3,514
7 Years	6%	3,117
8 Years	6%	2,932
9 Years	6%	2,939
10 Years	5%	2,700
11 Years	5%	2,490
12 Years	4%	2,193
13 Years	3%	1,720
14 Years	3%	1,395
15 Years	2%	1,077
16 Years	1%	732
17 Years	1%	496
18 Years	0%	134
19 Years	0%	29
20 Years	0%	13

What is the racial/ethnic distribution of the children adopted from the public foster care system?

AI/AN-Non Hispanic	1%	695
Asian-Non Hispanic	1%	315
Black-Non Hispanic	33%	16,554
Hawaiian/PI-Non Hispanic	0%	131
Hispanic	16%	7,923
White-Non Hispanic	42%	20,869
Unknown/Unable to Determine	3%	1,334
Two or More-Non Hispanic	4%	2,180

NOTE: Using U.S. Bureau of the Census standards, children of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Beginning in FY 2000, children could be identified with more than one race designation.

How many months did it take after termination of parental rights for the children to be adopted?

Mean Months	16.2	
Median Months	12.0	
Less than 1 Month	3%	1,670
1 thru 5 Months	19%	9,262
6 thru 11 Months	28%	14,198
12 thru 17 Months	19%	9,474
18 thru 23 Months	11%	5,731
24 thru 29 Months	7%	3,312
30 thru 35 Months	4%	2,067
3 thru 4 Years	6%	3,175
5 Years or More	2%	1,111

Children Adopted in FY 2003 (Continued)

What is the family structure of the child's adoptive family?

Married Couple	67%	33,647
Unmarried Couple	2%	788
Single Female	28%	14,206
Single Male	3%	1,358

What was the relationship of the adoptive parents to the child prior to the adoption?

Non-Relative	15%	7,267
Foster Parent	62%	31,094
Step-Parent	0%	76
Other Relative	23%	11,563

